

HARYANA DISTRICT GAZETTEERS



SONIPAT

Compiled by :

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**HARYANA GAZETTEERS ORGANISATION
REVENUE DEPARTMENT
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PREFACE

The Gazetteer, which literally meaning a geographical index of dictionary, has a much wider scope. It is the most authentic source of information on the political, social and economic activities of the people of a district. This is the first gazetteer of this district and it is the tenth in the revision series of Haryana gazetteers.

The Sonipat district as on March 31, 1989, was a part of two districts before 1912. The Sonipat area had remained attached to the Delhi district since the year 1861, was added to the Rohtak district in September, 1912, on the separation of Delhi territory from Punjab. Gohana tahsil remained a part of the Rohtak district till the formation of Sonipat as a separate district on December 22, 1972. The Gohana sub-division was again included in the Rohtak district on 16th October, 1989. However, as per reference year (March 31, 1989), the account of Gohana sub-division had to be included in this gazetteer.

The headquarters of the district is situated in Sonipat town which is one of the most ancient places of India. The historians give their finding as evidence that Sonipat town was habitated even in Mahabharata age.

As per direction of the Government the draft gazetteer of Sonipat was placed before the Advisory Committee which was constituted at district level under chairmanship of Shri K. K. Jalan, the then Deputy commissioner of Sonipat. The Committee scrutinized the MSS minutely.

I am very much grateful for the guidance given by Shri A. Banerjee, I. A. S., the then F. C. R. and Shri R. D. Garg, I.A.S., the then Joint Secretary, Revenue (now Commissioner). Shri A. Banerjee, the then F. C. R., perused the whole of the draft gazetteer and gave valuable suggestions which surely improved the quality of the gazetteer.

Various departments of the State and Central Government, semi-government organizations and individuals, who made available necessary material for this volume and also helped in many other ways in its compilation, deserve thanks. My thanks are due to Shri Padam Singh Ahlawat, Research Officer and other officials of Gazetteers Unit who assisted me in the compilation of this Volume. Dr. H. A. Padke of Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra wrote the

ancient section of History Chapter while the other two sections, Medieval and Modern of History Chapter were compiled by me. Dr. V. K. Sharma, of Kurukshetra University drafted the topography portion of 1st Chapter.

The gazetteer has been prepared on a pattern modelled by the Government of India and I hope it would be of immense help to the administrators, research workers and general readers alike.

JEET RAM RANGA,
Joint State Editor (Gazetteers),



सत्यमेव जयते

FOREWORD

The district gazetteer is a miniature encyclopaedia for the administrator and good guide to a stranger. It describes all important aspects and features of the district. Sonapat District Gazetteer is the 10th in the series of the revised district gazetteers of Haryana.

2. The Sonipat district has a rich past. The Sonipat town, previously known, as *Sonpat* (Gold place), is one of the five *Patas* or *Prasthas* which were demanded by Yudhishtira from Duryodhana in the Mahabharata period. All important aspects and features—social, religious and political—have been beautifully depicted in this Volume. I hope it will be very useful to everyone, especially to the research worker.

Chandigarh, October 1990.



A. BANERJEE,

I.A.S.,

**Financial Commissioner, Revenue,
Haryana.**

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CHAPTER I

GENERAL

ORIGIN OF THE NAME OF THE DISTRICT

The district of Sonipat came into existence on December 22, 1972.¹ It was a part of Rohtak district till December 21, 1972.

Sonipat seems to be a corruption of the word Sonpat which means in Sanskrit language the *suvarna prastha* (gold place). One popular tradition avers that this is one of the five *patas* or *prasthas*² (Indraprastha, Panipat, Talpat, Bhagpat and Sonipat) mentioned in the *Mahabharata* which Yudhishtira demanded from Duryodhana. Another tradition ascribes its foundation to Raja Soni thirteenth descent from Arjuna, a brother of Yudhishtira.³

LOCATION, BOUNDARIES, AREA AND POPULATION

Location and boundaries.—The district lies between 28°48' 30" and 29° 17' 54" north latitude and 76°28' 30" and 77°13'40" east longitude. It is bounded by the Karnal⁴ district on the north. To its north-west and west is Jind district. To its south-west and south are the Rohtak district and Delhi respectively. The Yamuna river marks the eastern boundary of the district and across the river lies Meerut district of Uttar Pradesh.

Area.—With an area of 2,206 square kilometres⁵, it occupies 4.99 per cent of the total area (44,212 square kilometres) of the State. It ranks eleventh in size among the 12 districts of the State.

Population.—According to 1981 Census, the district had 8,46,765 persons, 4,53,873 males and 3,92,892 females. It ranks population-wise eleventh among districts with 6.35 per cent of the total population of the State.

HISTORY OF THE DISTRICT AS AN ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT

The areas comprising the Sonipat district underwent many changes before the administrative unit in its present form emerged. Being close to the imperial city of Delhi, Sonipat was one of the three tahsils of the Delhi district.

1. *Vide* Haryana Government Notification No. 6054-E-(iv)-72/45724, dated December 22, 1972
2. *Marathas And Panipat* by Hari Ram Gupta, 1961, p. 176.
3. *Imperial Gazetteer of India (Provincial Series)*, 1908 Vol. I, p. 301.

(It is said that Lahrahara village of Sonipat tahsil was the Capital of King (Soni).

4. The Panipat district was created on 1st November, 1989.
5. The area of the district has been calculated on the basis of number of villages (348) as per Census of 1981. Two villages of Ganaur tahsil have been transferred to Panipat tahsil on 30th December, 1982.

Sonipat Tahsil.—The Delhi territory was first divided regularly into districts in 1819. The district of Delhi, as then constituted, consisted of two *parganas*, the 'northern' and the 'southern'. Between them they comprised the Delhi tahsil, the northern portion of the then Ballabgarh tahsil and a small portion then included in the Rohtak district. The Sonipat tahsil, with its headquarters at Larsoli, formed the Larsoli *pargana* of the Panipat district.¹

When the British took over the other areas after the treaty of Surji Arjungaon in 1803, the portion comprising the present Panipat tahsil and a part of Karnal tahsil became a part of Delhi Territory. In 1819, the Delhi Territory was reorganised into four parts which were the beginnings of the districts of Delhi, Rohtak, Gurgaon and Hisar. The Panipat district, including the areas of Panipat, Karnal and Sonipat, was formed as the fifth district in the reorganisation of 1824.

The arrangements as to tahsils appear to have been as follows :—

"As regards Sonipat tahsil there were at first two tahsils, both having their headquarters at the town ; then another, a small one, with a very poorly paid tahsildar, was made up at Ganaur. This was the State of things in 1835, When (1) Sonipat *Bangar* had a tahsildar drawing Rs. 50/- a month and the revenue was Rs. 2,13,040/-; (2) Sonipat *khadar*, a tahsildar on Rs. 50/- and revenue Rs. 70,999 ; (3) Ganaur, a tahsildar on Rs. 30 and revenue Rs. 67,444. In 1836, the Ganaur tahsil was incorporated with the the Sonipat *khadar*. This administration continued till 1851, When the two Panipat tahsils were made one, and the same amalgamation took place at Sonipat, the one tahsil being called Larsoli.²"

After the mutiny and the transfer of the Delhi territory (including Sonipat tahsil) to the Punjab, the immediate charge of Delhi district was held first by the Principal Assistant and subsequently by the collector under the Resident and Civil Commissioner. The first partition of Delhi-territory was made into divisions, an Assistant being entrusted with the charge of a division. At that time Sonipat formed part of the northern division with headquarters at Panipat.

In August, 1868, six villages with a population of 5,841 were transferred from Rohtak to Sonipat. In 1872, the number of villages in Sonipat tahsil was 211 but this number was increased to 241 in 1880.

1. *Gazetter of the Delhi District, Part A.* 1912. P 42.

2. *Ibid*, pp 42-43.

The Sonipat tahsil, which had remained attached to the Delhi district since the year, 1861, was added to the Rohtak district in September, 1912, on the separation of Delhi territory from Punjab.

Gohana tahsil and other areas.—By the treaty of Surji Arjungaon, signed on December 30, 1803, Rohtak area with some areas of present Sonipat district was taken over by the British and came under the administration of North-Western provinces. The British had no intention at that time to hold large territories beyond the Yamuna. Hence a large part of acquired territories during Anglo-Maratha War was divided among the loyal Kings who helped the British during the above war. Gohana and Kharkhoda-Mandothi were given to Raja Bhag Singh of Jind and Bhai Lal Singh of Kaithal as life jagirs.

The Gohana and Kharkhoda-Mandothi estates lapsed to the British Government on the death of Lal Singh in A.D. 1818 and Bhag Singh in 1820. The places such as Gohana, Kharkhoda and Mandothi were included in the Rohtak district in 1824.

Rohtak district was abolished in A.D. 1841; Gohana going to Panipat, and the rest of the tahsils to Delhi but it was created again in 1842. The Rohtak district with a large territory forming the present Sonipat district remained a part of Hisar division until 1884.

On abolition of Hisar division in 1884, the above territories with other areas of Rohtak district were transferred to the Delhi division. After the separation of Delhi territory from Punjab, the district was attached to the Ambala Division. This position remained upto 1947.

From 1912 to December, 1972, the present Sonipat district was a part of Rohtak district. It came into existence on December 22, 1972. At the time of formation of Sonipat district, 16 villages of Rohtak tahsil were transferred to Sonipat tahsil. The tahsilwise position of the villages on the eve of the formation of the district was as under :—

Tahsil	No. of Villages
(i) Sonipat	257
(ii) Gohana	89

The following territorial changes took place in the Sonipat district between April 23, 1974 and June 11, 1974 :—

Detail of the Notification	Remarks pertaining to changes
Vide Haryana Government Notification No. 2278-R-(iv)-74/11547, dated April 23, 1974	3 villages (Sisana, Garhi Sisana and Ashrapur Matindu) were transferred to Sonipat tahsil from Rohtak tahsil and on the same day Polangi village of Sonipat tahsil was added to Rohtak tahsil.

Vide Haryana Government
Notification No. 3059-R-(iv)-74/
19358, dated June 11, 1974

5 villages (Guhna, Tihar, Bhadi, Rolad
Latifpur and Dodwah) from Sonipat
tahsil were transferred to Gohana
tahsil.

By taking 69 villages from Sonipat tahsil, Ganaur as sub-tahsil was created on February 18, 1980. Three villages, namely, Rolad Latifpur, Dodwah and Bhadi of Gohana tahsil were transferred to Ganaur sub-tahsil on December 4, 1980. However, 2 villages (Chulkan and Chhadya Yusafpur) of Ganaur Sub-tahsil were transferred to Panipat tahsil of Karnal district on 30th December, 1982.

Kharkhoda with 33 villages was created as a sub-tahsil on March 3, 1982. The Sub-Tahsil of Ganaur was upgraded to the level of full-fledged tahsil on April 19, 1982.

Thus, the Sonipat district, on March 31, 1983, comprised 346 villages (335 inhabited and 11 un-inhabited).

The tahsilwise details of villages are as under :—

Tahsil/Sub-tahsil	No. of Villages
1. Sonipat	147
2. Gohana	91
3. Ganaur	70
4. Kharkhoda (Sub-tahsil)	38
Total:	346

As far as one village (Dodwa with its *hadbast* No. 148) of Ganaur tahsil and two villages Guhna, 184 and Tihar, 183 of Gohana tahsil were transferred to Sonipat tahsil¹.

On February 15, 1984, Chulkana village was again transferred from Samalkha sub-tahsil of Karnal district to Ganaur tahsil of Sonipat district.² A referendum was held at Chulkana village about its future and again this village was transferred to Samalkha tahsil.³

(1) *Vide* Haryana Govt. notification No. 156-E (iv)-84/4270, February 15, 1984.

(2) *Vide* Haryana Govt. Notification No. 156-E (iv)-84/4267, dated February 15, 1984.

(3) *Vide* Haryanz Govt. Notification No. 2816-E (iv)84/15239, dated May 31, 1984.

The villages, viz. Dobaita, Moi, Majri, Rolad Latifpur and Bhadi of Ganaur tahsil were transferred to Sonipat tahsil, whereas as far as 3 villages Beghan, Sandal Kalan and Chatia Aulia of Sonipat tahsil were transferred to Ganaur tahsil on August 5, 1985.¹

On August 5, 1985, village Rohna of Rohtak district was transferred to Kharkhoda Sub-tahsil. On the same date, 6 villages (Barona, Khurampur, Pai, Kirauli, Pahladpur and Sohоти of Bahadurgarh tahsil (Rohtak district) were transferred to Kharkhoda sub-tahsil of Sonipat district.²

There were 353 villages in the district as on March 31, 1989. The details are as under³ :—

Tehsil	Villages		
	Inhabited	Un-inhabited	Total
Sonipat ..	147	5	152
Gohana ..	86	3	89
Ganaur ..	63	4	67
Kharkhoda (Sub-Tahsil) ..	44	1	45
	340	13	353

GEOLOGY

The Sonipat district falls in the Great Indo-Genetic Alluvial plain and the entire district is covered by Quaternary deposits. The area is conspicuously flat and has a master slope from north to south.

The Quaternary sediments of the area are composed of recent and fresh matter deposits of clay, silt and sand which are of loose to semi-consolidated nature of recent to sub-recent age. The Geological classification of the sediments depending upon relative disposition, occurrence, development of soil thickness oxidation etc. has been broadly made into two formations viz. the Older Alluvial Formation and the Jamuna Older Alluvial Formation. The details of which are as follows :

The Older Alluvial Formation.—It occurs at higher level and chiefly consists of silt, silty clay and clay with occurrence of *kankar* at certain places. The colour of the sediments varies from dirty yellow to pale brown due to oxidation.

(1) Vide Haryana Govt. Notification No. 4649-E(4)-85/23546, dated 5th August, 1985.

(2) Vide Haryana Govt. Notification as shown above.

(3) The Gohana Sub-Division of Sonipat district was included in the Rohtak district—vide Haryana Govt. Notification S.O. 156/P. A. 17/1337/3.5./83, dated 16th October, 1989

Jamuna Older Alluvial Formation.—It occurs concomitant to the Jamuna channel in the form of recent flood plain and low lying terrace deposits. It consists of greyish silt, silty sand with sporadic pebbles of quartzites basic rock fragments and clay pockets.

Economic Minerals

The following minor minerals are recovered from the earth :—

Sand.—It occurs in abundance and is being used in concrete mixture for construction.

Brick Clay.—The silty clay is used for brick making.

Saltpetre.—The material is used for washing of clothes by local washermen. It is reportedly being marketed to Lucknow and Calcutta. It is recovered mainly during summer season.

Most of the saltpetre is manufactured in the villages of the Gohana and Sonipat tahsils.

FLORA

There has been no systematic survey and there is nothing particular about the flora of the Sonipat district. However, the various kinds of trees and shrubs grow in different localities are given below :—

Serial No.	Local name	Botanical name
1	2	3
1.	<i>Pilu or Jal</i>	<i>Salvadora Oleoides</i>
2.	<i>Jand, Janti, Chonkra</i>	<i>Presopis cineraria</i>
3.	<i>Karil or Kair</i>	<i>Capparis decidua</i>
4.	<i>Hingo or Tingota</i>	<i>Balanites acjyptiaca</i>
5.	<i>Hins</i>	<i>Capparis sepiaria</i>
6.	<i>Kutra Kundru, Kanduri</i>	<i>Cocceinea cordifolia</i>
7.	<i>Hul hul</i>	<i>Cleome viscosa</i>
8.	<i>Kanteri, Kankawwa, Kana]</i>	<i>Commelina</i>
9.	<i>Khurand, Bohphali, Howwa-torai Kagroti, Chonch, Kharenti</i>	<i>Corchorus</i>

1	2	3
10. <i>Kundra</i> or <i>Tandla</i>	..	<i>Digera arvensis</i>
11. <i>Kulfa</i>	..	<i>Portulaca</i>
12. <i>Jhojhru</i> or <i>Pawad</i>	..	<i>Tephrosia</i>
13. <i>Santhi</i>	..	<i>Trianthemo</i>
14. <i>Bhankdi</i>	..	<i>Tribulus alutus</i>
15. <i>Kasni</i> or <i>Kasni</i>	..	<i>Triumfetta tomentosa</i>
16. <i>Basuti</i>	..	<i>Adhatoda vasica</i>
17. <i>Bangra</i> or <i>Bichhu</i> or <i>Kutra</i> or <i>Bhurat</i>	..	<i>Xanthium strumarium</i>
18. <i>Ak</i> or <i>madar</i>	..	<i>Calotropis procera</i>
19. <i>Kala Bhangra</i>	..	<i>Croton bonplandianum</i>
20. <i>Satyanashi</i> or <i>Kateli</i>	..	<i>Argemone mexicana</i>
21. <i>Katchi</i> or <i>Rissa</i>	..	<i>Cnicus arvensis</i>
22. <i>Farash</i>	..	<i>Tamarix articulata</i>
23. <i>Shisham</i>	..	<i>Dalbergia sisoo</i>
24. <i>Babul</i> or <i>Kikar</i>	..	<i>Acacia nilotica</i>
25. <i>Reru</i>	..	<i>A. leucophloea</i>
26. <i>Siris</i>	..	<i>Albizzia lebbeck</i> (B.)
27. <i>Nim</i>	..	<i>Azadirachta indica</i>
28. <i>Dhak</i>	..	<i>Butea monosperma</i>
29. <i>Peepal</i>	..	<i>Ficus religiosa</i>
30. <i>Amaltas</i>	..	<i>Cassia fistula</i>
31. <i>Lasura</i>	..	<i>Cordia dichotoma</i>
32. <i>Bar</i> or <i>Banyan</i>	..	<i>Ficus bengalensis</i>
33. <i>Sahtoot</i>	..	<i>Morus alba</i>

1	2	3
34. <i>Jumela</i>	..	<i>Terminalia arjuna</i>
35. <i>Kachnar</i>	..	<i>Bauhinia variegata</i>
36. <i>Barna</i>	..	<i>Crateva nurvala</i>
37. <i>Sohanjna</i>	..	<i>Moringa Oleifera</i>
38. <i>Kaim</i>	..	<i>Mitrogyna Parvifolia</i>
39. <i>Semul</i> or <i>Symbal</i>	..	<i>Salmalia malabarica</i>
40. <i>Lahura</i>	..	<i>Tecomella undulata</i>
41. <i>Chhittar</i> , <i>Thohar</i> or <i>Nagphani</i>	..	<i>Opuntia dillenii</i>
42. <i>Aam</i>	..	<i>Mangifera indica</i>
43. <i>Jamun</i>	..	<i>Syzgium cumini</i>

The aquatic flora of the district includes such flowering plants as *Aponogeton ceratophyllum* and species of *Hydrilla*, *Nymphaca* (*Chhota Kamal*), *Potamageton*, *Trapa bispinosa* (*Singhara*), *Utricularia* and others; and also species of *Morsilea* and *Azolla* of the *Bteridophyta*-group.

There are many herbs and shrubs which possess medicinal properties. Some of the more important are :

Boerhaavia diffusa (*Punarnava*), *Argemone mexicana* (*Satyanasi*), *Peganum harmala* (*Harmal*), *Solanum surattense* (*Kandias*), *Vitex negundo* (*Nirgundi*), *Withania somifera* (*Asgand*) and *Zyuyphus* spp.

There are many kinds of grasses in the district. The biggest and the most conspicuous is *Saccharum Munja* (*Munj* or *Sarkandu*). This grass is put to various uses and yields fibre from which strong ropes are made. A very good fodder grass is *Cynodon dactylon* (*Dub*). Other grasses commonly seen are *Eragrostis*, *vetiveria* *Zizanioides* (*Khas-khas*) *Dacthloctenium aegyptium* (*Makhra* or *Madna*), *Cenchrus Ciliaris*, *Echinochloa colona*, *Heteropogon contortus*, *Polypogon* Sp. etc.

Adhatoda vasica (*Bansa*) and *vitex negunda* (*Sambhalu*) are used as roofing material for mud-houses. The grasses like *dub* and *Kans* are used to feed cattle. Other grasses like *Sanwak*, *dub*, *deila* and *bathu* are very harmful for crops but provide good fodder for cattle.

FAUNA

Mammals.—The district is devoid of forests, there is hardly any chance of a big mammal being met in the district. Black buck, *Antelope Cervicapra* (Linnaeus) is perhaps the only big mammal which can be seen in the district and its presence is confirmed in the adjacent Rohtak district. Rodents are represented by Five striped Palm Squirrel, *Funambulus Pennalti* (Wroughton), Indian Gerbille, *Tetera indica* (Hardwicki), house rat, *Rattus rattus* (Linnaeus) and the house Mouse, *Mus musculus* (Linnaeus). The insect-eating mammal, *Suncus murinus* (Linnaeus) commonly known as 'Chuchundar' is quite Common. Two species of bats, namely; Common Yellow Bat, *Scotophilus heathi* (Horsfield) and Tickell's Bat, *Hesperoptenus tickelli* (Blyth) are seen in the district. The Indian Hare, *Pepusnigricollis* Cuvier or *Khargosh* is also seen in bushes and cultivated fields. Among the carnivores, Jackal, *Canis aureus* (Linnaeus) and Small Indian Civet, *Viverricula indica* (Desmarest) may be found in the district. The common Mongoose, *Herpestes edwardsi* (Geoffroy) is quite common in the area. The Primates, the highest group of mammals are represented by Rhesus Macaque *Macaca Mulata* (Zimmermann). One more primate species, the Common Langur, *Presbytis entellus* (Dufresne) is found here.

Birds

Water birds.—A large number of migratory ducks visit various tanks and lakes in the district during winter. These include Brahminy Duck, *Tadorna ferruginea* (Pallas) ; Common Shelduck, *Tadorna tadorna* (Linnaeus); Pintail, *anas acuta* (Linnaeus); Common Teal, *Anas crecca crecca* (Linnaeus); Mallard, *Anas platyrhynchos* (Linnaeus) ; Gadwall, *Anas streperastrepera* (Linnaeus) ; Wigeon, *Anas penelope* (Linnaeus) ; Bluewinged Teal, *Anas querquedula* (Linnaeus) ; Shoveller, *Anas clypeata* (Linnaeus) ; Common Pochard, *Aythya ferina* (Linnaeus) ; etc. Some other ducks such as Cotton Teal, *Nettapus Coromandelianus coromandelianus* (Gemelin) ; Spotbill duck, *Anas pectorrhyncha* Forster, etc. occur there throughout the year at suitable habitats.

Besides a good number of birds like Dabchicks, *Podiceps ruficollis capensis* (Salvadori) ; Large Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis* (Shaw); Little Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax niger* (Vieillot) ; Darter or Snake bird, *Anhinga rafa melanogaster* Pennant ; Eastern Grey Heron, *Ardea cinerea rectirostris* Gould ; Little green Heron, *Butorides striatus chloriceps* Bonaparte and Paddy Bird, *Ardeola grayii grayii* (Sykes) are found near the Ponds and lakes of the district (throughout the year. Other birds like Eastern large Egret, *Egretta alba modesta* (J.E. Gray) ; Median Egret, *Egretta intermedia intermedia* (Wagler) ; Little Egret *Egretta garzetta garzetta* (Linnaeus) and little Bittern, *Ixobrychus minutus minutus* (Linnaeus) affect inland water marshes, jheels, etc. Cattle Egret, *Bubulcus ibis Coromandus* (Boddaert) can be seen moving along with grazing cattle.

A large number of painted stork, *Idis leucocephalus* (Pennant); Openbill stork, *Anastomus oscitans* (Boddaert) ; whitenecked stork *Ciconia episcopus episcopus* (Boddaert) ; Blacknecked stork *Xenorhynchus asiaticus asiaticus* (Latham) ; White Ibis *Threskiornis melanocephala* (Latham) ; Indian Black Ibis *Pseudibis papillosa papillosa* (Temminck) are also found near marshes and inundated land and cultivated fields throughout the year. Black stork *Ciconia nigra* (Linnaeus) visits the district during winter season. Adjutant stork *Leptoptilos Dubius* (Gmelin) can be seen during rains. Spoon-bill *Platalea leucorodia* major Temminck and schlegel may also be seen along *Jheels* during winter.

Among cranes Eastern Common crane *Grus grus lilfordi* Sharpe and Demoiselle Crane, *Anthropoides virgo* (Linnaeus) are found in association on sandy river beds, *Jheels* and fields of winter Crops. Indian Sarus crane, *Grus antigone antigone* (Linnaeus) is a resident bird and breeds during monsoon.

During winter, Baillon's crake, *Porzana pusilla pusilla* (Pallas) and spotted crake, *Porzana porzana* (Linnaeus) can be seen on the edges of ponds and lakes feeding on aquatic plants. Indian Bluebreasted Banded Rail, *Rallus striatus albiventor* Swainson ; Slatylegged Banded Crake, *Rallina eurizonoides amauroptera* (Jerdon) ; Northern Ruddy crake , *Amaurornis fuscus bakeri* (Hartert); Chinese White breasted Waterhen, *Amaurornis phoenicurus chinensis* (Boddaert) ; Indian Moorhen, *Gallinula chloropus indica* Blyth ; Indian Purple Moorhen, *Porphyrio porphyrio policephalus* (Latham) are resident species of the district and can be seen on rain-filled ponds and inundated paddy cultivation, etc. Coot, *fulica atra atra atra* (Linnaeus) is resident as well as winter visitor and affects *Jheels* and tanks.

The Waders, namely ; Dusky Redshank *Tringa erythropus* (Pallas); Eastern Redshank, *Tringa totanus eurhinus* ((Obelholser) ; Marsh Sandpiper, *Tringa stangnatlilis* (Bechstein) ; Greenshank, *Tringa nebularia* (Gunnerus); Green Sandpiper, *Tringa Ochropus* (Linnaeus); Wood Sandpiper, *Tringa glareola* (Linnaeus), Common Sandpiper, *Tringa hypoleucos* (Linnaeus) ; Pintail snipe, *Capella stenura* (Bonaparte) and Temminck's stint, *Calidris temminckii* (Leisler) visit suitable marshy areas and the edges of pools and lakes during winter. On the other hand, pheasant tailed jacana, *Hydrophasianus chirurgus* (Scopoli) and Indian Blackwinged stilt, *Himantopus Himantopus himantopus* (Linnaeus) are residential birds and effect *jheels*, marshes and village tanks, etc.

Some other birds which are found near the river in the district throughout the year are : Indian River Tern, *Sterna aurantia* J.E. Gray and Blackbellied Tern, *sterna acuticauda* J.E. Grey, White whiskered Tern, *Chilonais hybrida indica* (Stephens) is a winter visitor.

It is not uncommon to see kingfishers like Indian Pied Kingfisher, *Ceryle rudis leucomelanura* Reichenback ; Indian Small Blue Kingfisher, *Alcedo atthis bengalensis* Gmelin and Whitebreasted Kingfisher. *Halcyon smyrnensis smyrnensis* (Linnaeus) goes hurling itself headlong into water to catch fish. All these are resident birds and affect every kind of stagnant water and canals.

In addition to ducks and geese, other game birds like partridges and quails are commonly seen. Indian Black Partridge, *Francolinus francolinus asiae* Bonaparte and Grey Partridge, *Francolinus pondicerianus interpositus* Hartert are Common. Grey quail, *Coturnix coturnix coturnix* (Linnaeus) is a seasonal (Winter) visitor, while Blackbreasted Or Rain quail, *Coturnix cormandelica* (Gmelin) ; Jungle Bush quail, *Perdica asiatica punjaubi* Whistler and Rock Bush quail, *Perdica argoondah* (Sykes) are resident species.

Sandgrouses, namely the Large Pintail Sandgrouse, *Pterocles alchata* (Linnaeus) and the Indian Sandgrouse, *Pterocles exustus* Temminck are also resident birds. Their flocks, large and small, regularly visit some favourable waterholes.

Among Pigeons and doves, Bengal Green Pigeon, *Treron phoenicoptera* (Latham) is found in the vicinity of villages chiefly on *Ficus* trees. Blue Rock Pigeon, *Columba livia* Gmelin occurs in almost all the villages. Indian Ring Dove, *Streptopelia decaocto* (Frivaldszky) and Indian Spotted Dove, *Streptopelia chinensis* (Scopoli) are generally found in all cultivated fields.

Colourful birds.—The colourful birds add beauty to the varied wild-life of the district. The most common birds are : Large Indian Parakeet, *Psittacula eupatria* (Linnaeus); Rose-ringed Parakeet, *Psittacula krameri* (Scopoli); common Kingfisher, *Alcedo atthis* (Linnaeus); whitebreasted Kingfisher, *Halcyon smyrnensis* (Linnaeus); Blue-checked Bee-eater, *Merops superciliosus* (Linnaeus); Goldenbacked Woodpecker, *Dinopium benghalense* (Linnaeus); Redvented Bulbul, *Pycnonotus cafer* (Linnaeus); purple Sunbird, *Nectarinia asiatica* (Latham); Hoopoe, *Upupa epops* (Linn) ; white-checked Bulbul, *Pycnonotus leucogenys* (Gray); golden Oriole, *Oriolus oriolus* (Linnaeus); Koel, *Eudynamis scolopacea* (Linnaeus); Pied crested cuckoo, *Clamator Jacobinus serratus* (Syrman); Crowpneasant or coucal, *Centropus sinensis* (Stephens); Red munia, *Estrilda amandava* (Linnaeus), etc.

The national bird of India, the common Peafowl, *Pavo cristatus* (Linnaeus) is quite common and is seen in orchards, fields and gardens of the district.

During winter one can notice birds like green plover, *Vanellus vanellus* (Linnaeus); Wagtails, *Motacilla flava* (Linnaeus), *Motacilla Citrila pallas*, *Motacilla alba* Linnaeus, etc.

Birds of Economic Importance.—Scavengers like Pariah Kite, *Milvus migrans* (Boddaert); White-backed Vulture, *Gyps bengalensis* (Gmelin); Black vulture, *Torgos calvus* (Scopoli); Tawny Eagle *Aquila rapax* (Temminck); House Crow, *Corvus splendens* (Vieillot) etc. keep the district cleared of dead animals by feeding on them. The Egyptian or Scavenger vulture, *Neophron percnopterus* (Linnaeus); besides feeding on dead animals, consumes a large quantity of human excreta. Predators like Black winged Kite, *Elanus caeruleus* (Desfontaines); shikra, *Accipiter badius* (Gmelin); Lager Falcon, *Falco biarmicus* (Temminck); Peregrine Falcon, *Falco peregrinus* Tunstall; Kestrel, *Falco tinnunculus* (Linnaeus); Spotted Owlet, *Athene brama* (Temminck); Eagle owl, *Bubo bubo* (Linnaeus), etc. keep a check on the population of not only rodent pests but also various insects by consuming them.

The challenge of insect pests is also met with by various insect eating birds, both resident and migratory. Swifts (Apodidae), Swallows (Hirundinidae); Drongos (Dicruridae); Babblers, Warblers, Fly-catchers (Muscicapidae) of various species consume insects as their staple diet. Larks (Aloudidae) and Wagtails (Motacillidae) feed on a considerable amount of worms in addition to insects. Rosy Pastor and common starling, both winter visitors, and several species of Mynas (Sturnidae) may specially be mentioned for their role in destroying numerous injurious insects including locusts on a large scale and thus helping in saving crops to some extent.

Reptiles.—The reptilian fauna of the area comprises snakes, lizards, etc. The details are given below :—

I. Snakes

(a) **Poisonous snakes.**—*Bungarus caeruleus* (Schneider), the common **Krait** or **Karayat** grows to about 1.75 metre in length. The males are longer than the females. It is blue in colour with about 40 thin whitish cross bands on its body. The young ones and sometimes adults may have white spots along the first third of the dorsal side of the body in place of bands. Such snakes are nocturnal in nature and mostly found in rodent holes or piles of bricks. Its venom is extremely toxic and induces nerve paralysis.

Naja naja naja (Linnaeus).—It is a spectacled Indian cobra or Nag. It grows to about 2 metres in length. The males are longer. Its colour varies from dark brown to black with white or yellowish under sun-face. The hood is generally marked with a connected chain of rings. The snake is mostly found in rice fields which have plenty of rats for food and burrows to live in. Its venom affect the nervous system leading to respiratory paralysis and cardiac failure.

(b) **Non-Poisonous snakes.**—*Eryx johnii* (Russell), the **Red Sand Boa** or **Do-mu-sanp**. It grows to about a metre in length. The

female is longer, about two times that of male. It is reddish-brown in colour. Its body is thick with very blunt hood and tail. The snake is nocturnal in habit and lives in sandy places, rodent burrows, etc. It mostly feeds on rats and other small snakes. *Typhlina Porrectus* Stoliczka, the Blind Snake or *Andha-sanp*, is small-sized (12-15 cm) worm-like snake. It is reddish brown in colour. It lives under the logs, moist leaves, humus and in ant and termite holes. It comes out only at night and feeds on worms, insects larvae, eggs of ants and termites, etc.

Lizards

1. *Hemidactylus flaviviridis* Ruppell.—The Indian House-Gecko or *Chipkli*: It is greenish-grey with some transverse bands. It changes its colouration very rapidly according to the habitat in which it lives.

2. *Calotes versicolor* (Daudin), the Blood Sucker or *girgit*.—It is often, but erroneously, called the chameleon. It is commonly found in gardens, around the bushes and hedges. It feeds on insects, spiders, etc. During the breeding season, the male assumes a brilliant crimson or scarlet colour.

Tortoise

Geoclemys hamiltoni (Gray), the common Kachua.—Its shell is dark brown or black, marked with yellowish spots and streaks. It is carnivorous in its food habits.

Amphibians

The amphibian fauna of the district comprises mainly of frogs and toads. The details are as follows :—

Frogs.—*Rana cyanophlyctis* (Schneider), the Skipping frog, *Rana Limnocharis* (boil) the paddy field frog and *Rana tigerina* (Daudin) the bull frog are commonly found. The Skipping frog is the commonest frog of the area and as the name implies, it can be seen skipping over the surface of water. The paddy field frog is the second commonest frog of the area. It frequents the edges of the ponds, ditches and marshes and leaps into the water when disturbed and rapidly swims ashore again. It cannot skip on the surface of water as skipping frog does.

Toad.—*Befo melanostictus* (Schneider) is a common toad of the area. It mostly hides itself under the stones, bricks or crevices.

Fishes

The important fishes of the district are as follows :—

Scientific Name	Local name
Family notopteridol (Pearber backs)	
1. <i>Notopterus chitala</i> (Hamilton)	<i>Parri</i>
2. <i>N. notopterus</i> (Pallas)	<i>Parri</i>
Family Cyprinidae (The Carps)	
3. <i>Catla catla</i> (Hamilton)	<i>Katla, Theil</i>
4. <i>Labeo calbasu</i> (Hamilton)	<i>Kalabans Dhai</i>
5. <i>L. rohita</i> (Hamilton)	<i>Rohu</i>
6. <i>L. Pangusia</i> (Hamilton)	<i>Akhrot</i>
7. <i>Puntius sarana sarana</i> (Hamilton)	<i>Puthia, Chiddu</i>
Family Bagridae (Catfishes)	
8. <i>Aorichthys seenghala</i> (Sykes)	<i>Sanghara, Singhara</i>
9. <i>Mystus vittatus</i> (Bloch)	<i>Tinger, Kinger kala-Kendar</i>
10. <i>Rita rita</i> (Hamilton)	<i>Khagga</i>
Family Heteropneustidae (Catfishes)	
11. <i>Heteropneustes fossilis</i> (Bloch)	<i>Lakhi, Sangi</i>
Family Schilbeidae (Catfishes)	
12. <i>Clupisoma garva</i> (Hamilton)	<i>Bachwar</i>
13. <i>Silonia silondia</i> (Hamilton)	<i>Siond</i>
Family Siluridae (Catfishes)	
14. <i>Wallago attu</i> (Schneider)	<i>Mullee</i>
Family Sisoridae (Catfishes)	
15. <i>Bagarius varrelli</i> (Sykes)	<i>Geonch, Retha</i>
Family Channidae thurrels)	
16. <i>Channa gachua</i> (Hamilton)	<i>Dolla</i>
17. <i>C. marulius</i> (Hamilton)	<i>Sol, Chottisol</i>
18. <i>C. punctatus</i> (Bloch)	<i>Damra, Dolla,</i>
19. <i>C. striatus</i> (Bloch)	<i>Curd karrar</i>

Family mugilidae (the mullets)

20. *Rhinomugil Corsula* (Hamilton)

Hurdwabra

Majority of the fishes listed above are well-known in the area. The fishes like *Cirrhinus mrigala*, *Labeo rohita*, *Catla catla*, *Puntius sarana sarana*, *Channa marulius* are good for culture. A proper development and management of the fishery resources of the district can enhance the trade for meeting the need of atleast of the neighbouring areas.

There is no game sanctuary in the district. However, a bird sanctuary is being established at Barwasni *Jheel* where 112 bird species are found in the winter.

Partridge is the State bird and the black buck is State animal of Haryana. No body is allowed to kill them. The wolves have almost become extinct in the area.

A dozen people die every year due to the cobra bite. However, the Haryana government has put a ban on destroying the Cobra under Wild Life Protection Act, 1972.

Climate

The climate of the district is dry with an intensely hot summer and a cold winter. Only during the three monsoon months, i.e. July, August and September, weather is comparatively milder due to penetration of moist air of oceanic origin in this district. The year may be divided into four seasons.

The winter season starts by late November and extends to about the middle of March. This is followed by hot season which continues to about the end of June when the South-West monsoon arrives over the district. July to September is the south-west monsoon season. The post monsoon months October and November, constitute a transition period from the monsoon to winter conditions.

Temperature.—There is no meteorological observatory in the district. Therefore, the description that follows is based on the records of observatories in the neighbouring district. Both day and night temperatures begin to fall down during the later half of November. January is the coldest month when the mean daily maximum temperature is about 21°C and mean daily minimum about 7°C. In the winter months, during cold waves which affect the district in the wake of western disturbances passing across north India, minimum temperature may sometimes go down to the freezing point of water and frost may occur. From about the middle of March, temperatures begin to rise rapidly. May and June are the hottest months.

From April the hot westerly winds locally known as 'Lu' blow and heat is intense. In May and June maximum temperatures may sometimes reach about 47°C. With advance of the South-West monsoon towards the end of June, day temperature drops appreciably while night temperature continues to be as high as in the summer. Even during the brief south-west monsoon, the weather is stuffy and uncomfortable in between spells of rain on account of the increased moisture in the air. In October, the day temperature is as high as during the monsoon months but the nights are cooler.

Humidity.—The air is dry during the greater part of the year. In the monsoon months, the humidity is high about 70% . April and May are usually the driest months, humidity in the afternoons being less than 20 per cent.

Cloudiness.—During the monsoon particularly in July and August, the skies are heavily clouded. In the rest of the year, the skies are generally clear or lightly clouded. In January, February and early March, the skies become cloudy and sometimes over cast in association with passage of western disturbances.

Winds.—Winds are generally light during the post-monsoon and winter months. They strengthen a little during the summer and monsoon months. Winds are predominantly easterly or south-easterly in the monsoon season. They are mostly westerly or north-westerly during the mornings and blow from directions between north-westerly and north-wasterly during afternoons.

Special Weather Phenomena.—April to June is the period with the highest incidence of thunder-storms and duststorms. Violent squalls (*andhis*) often accompany such storms, while some of the thunderstorms are dry and others are accompanied by heavy rain and occasionally hail. Rain during the monsoon months is often accompanied by thunder. Thunderstorms also occur in the winter months in associations with western disturbances. Fogs, sometimes dense, occur in the winter months in the rear of the western disturbances.

This is a new district formed out of Rohtak district. Records of rainfall in the district are available for 2 stations (Gohana and Sonipat) for period of about 74 years. The details of rainfall at these stations and for the district as a whole are given in the Table I of Appendix.

The average annual rainfall in the district is 567.0mm. The rainfall generally increases from the south-west to the north-west in the district. The rainfall in the south-west monsoon season constitutes about 77 per cent of the annual rainfall, July being the month with the highest rainfall. The

annual rainfall in the district varies over a wide range. In the 80-years periods (1901-1980), the highest annual rainfall was in 1964 when it amounted to 232 per cent of the normal. In the two consecutive years 1938 and 1939 the annual rainfall in the district was the lowest in the 80-year period and was only 42 and 43 per cent of the normal rainfall in each of the two years. In the same eighty-year period, the rainfall was less than or equal to 80% of the normal in 18 years. Considering the district as a whole there was one occasion each of two (1928-29), three (1901-03) and four (1938-41) consecutive years of such low rainfall. It will be seen from the Table IA of Appendix that annual rainfall was between 401 to 700 mm. in 46 years out of 71 years.

On an average there are 30 rainy days (i.e. days with rainfall of 2.5 mm. or more) in a year in the district.

The heaviest rainfall recorded in 24 hours at Sonipat station in the district was 257.8mm. on September 19, 1933.

TOPOGRAPHY

The Sonipat district occupies a part of the Indo-Gangetic alluvial tract. The alluvium was deposited in the Quaternary Period. Therefore, it is geologically young, and so is the topographic expression developed on the alluvial terrain. The Indo-Gangetic alluvium is a major geological sedimentary basin and topographic division of India. The alluvium was deposited in a tectonic platform depression between the peninsular and extra-peninsular regions of India. In geological literature, this depression on a regional scale is known as 'geosyncline', a 'foredeep', a 'syncline', or a 'crustal structure of a negative character'. The thickness variation of alluvial cover is said to be determined by the subsurface extension of tectonic lineaments of the peninsular rocks into the Indo-Gangetic Plain. These buried basement features are also reflected in the surface configuration and geohydrologic characteristics of the overlying alluvial terrain.

On the basis of geophysical and other data, the geologists have inferred¹ that a large basement high of peninsular rocks is buried beneath a variable, yet of an enormous thickness of alluvium in the area between the Jamuna of the Ganga system, and the rivers of the Punjab draining into the Indus river. The thickness of alluvial cover over the basement rocks is not precisely known, but it may be any where up to 2 km thick at many places. The tectonic map of India published by the Oil and Natural Gas Commission in 1968, and subsequently discussed by many geologists for the subsurface stratigraphy and geological evolution of the eastern section of the Indo-Gangetic Plain or the

¹ Rao, M.B.R. (1973). The subsurface geology of the Indo-Gangetic Plain. *J. Geol. Soc. Ind.* 14(3), 217-242.

'Ganga Basin' suggests that two subsurface faults traverse through the Sonipat district in a roughly north-east-south-west direction. Further, a subsurface geological structure demarcating the western margins of the 'Ganga Basin'¹ and referred to as 'Delhi-Hardwar Ridge', has also been identified in the eastern parts of the Sonipat district. The subsurface ridge is not very conspicuous in the district as it is reportedly shallow in character and overlain by any enormous thickness of alluvial cover. However, the geomorphic implications of such geological structures in the evolution of drainage and topography are not understood in clear terms at the present time.

Geologists conveniently classify the Indo-Gangetic alluvium into 'newer' alluvium or '*khadar*' and 'older' alluvium or *bhangar*². These basic divisions of the alluvium not only reflect the geomorphic events or processes, but also the characteristic topographies associated with each type of alluvium.

The part of the alluvium that has been extensively reworked by the fluvial activity in the Recent is the newer alluvium or the *khadar*. The topography of this surface is expressed by numerous buried channels, palaeochannels, oxbow lakes, meander scrolls and point bars. The *khadar* is reportedly rich in detrital minerals like garnet and mica, and heavier lag deposits in abandoned channels. In fact, these features represent the areas of present, active floodplain, and the past floodplain of the river traversing through the pre-existing alluvial tract. The *bhangar* or the older Pleistocene alluvium occupies the higher topographic portions of the Indo-Gangetic alluvium not affected by the fluvial activity so well characteristic of the *khadar*. Therefore, the *bhangar* tract makes the highest terrace.³ The *bhangar* is generally distinguishable from the *khadar* in terms of the presence of salt efflorescences known as *reh* or *kallar*. These concretions and salt encrustations are evaporites formed by the evaporations or soil capillary and stagnant waters during periods of high thermal efficiency in the dry periods. These salts are termed as calcie and are rich in carbonates, sulphates and chlorides of sodium, calcium and magnesium. In Sonipat district, calcie has been observed in the Recent alluvium also. Thus, a classification of alluvium into *khadar* and *bhangar* on the basis of salt efflorescences may not hold for the district under reference. Therefore, the geomorphic observations of reworked alluvium is the only suitable criterions for distinguishing the two surfaces which otherwise differ only slightly in other details. The sediment data from the adjacent Union Territory

1. Sastri, V.V., L.L. Bhandari, A.T.R. Raju and A. K. Dutta (1971), Tectonic framework and subsurface stratigraphy of the Ganga Basin. *J. Geol. Soc. Ind.*, 12 (3) 222-233.
2. Pascoe, E.H. (1959), *Manual of the Geology of India and Burma*, Vol. 3, 3rd Edn., Govt. of India Press, Calcutta.
3. Sharma, V.K. (1935), Geomorphic criteria in land classification. In A.B. Mukerji and A. Ahmad (Eds) *India-Culture, Society and Economy*, Inter-India Publications, New Delhi, pp 601-608

of Delhi suggests that the *khadar* of the Jamuna river overlies sands of aeolian environment.¹ Here, the aeolian sands directly overlie the bedrock, which suggests that the river deposited sediments came into existence only after the sands of aeolian province were laid-down. Borehole stratigraphic data to supplement this observation are not available for the Sonipat district, but it may be cautiously inferred that almost similar geological conditions may also have prevailed in the district.

On the basis of geomorphic evolution, three geological environments and consequently related topographies have been recognised in the Sonipat district. These, from east to west are : (1) the active, Recent floodplain of the Jamuna river, (2) the sub-Recent floodplain, and (3) the Pleistocene upland or the *bhangar*. The topographic details of the three regions are as follows :—

The active, Recent floodplain.—This geomorphic unit extends along the western bank of the Jamuna river in a north-south direction. Taking the first major break of slope west of Jamuna river, the boundary and the morphological features of the active floodplain have been identified and delimited on aerial photographs of 1969. The active floodplain may be defined as a tract of land adjacent to the river that is liable to flooding once in 2-3 years. A comparison of the position of the Jamuna river given in the survey of India topographical maps surveyed in 1974-77 and that obtained from aerial photographs also provides useful preliminary assessment of the evolution of the active floodplain. The western limit of the active flood plain may be roughly described as extending in north to south direction from near east of Chandauli and Pabnera, along the Pabnera and Tikola bandhs and Garhi, east of Machhraula, along Nandaur and Barauli, east of Mirakpur and Jajjal roughly criss-crossing Jhundpur Khatkar bandh, up to Khurrampur, east of Baquipur and thorough Khatkar and Dahesra villages. It is a tract of irregular, up to a maximum of 3 km width in east-west direction. The floodplain comprises two major topographic divisions as splays and overflow channels.

The splays comprise localised concentration of overbank sediments adjacent to the river bank. These sediments make longitudinal bars comprising finer sand ractions and are evolved when floods find passage through topographic lows, principally of pre existing river courses. The resulting topography is that of low undulating relief. Two such splays have been identified in the Sonipat district. In one instance, such topography extends for

(1) Srivastava, A.K. , P.M. Jalota, G. Ghosh, S. Anantharaman and A.K. Singh (1976), A reveiw of geotechnical studies and its application in environmental management of Delhi. In *Quaternary : Recent Geological Enironments and Environmental Management* Vol. III, 125th Anniversary Celebrations, Geol. Surv. Ind. (memo).

about 5 km. from the boundary of the district with the Jamuna river to the east of Pabnera village. The elevation in this case is about 220 m. In the second case, the splays roughly terminate at the Drain No. 8. These deposits occur at an elevation of about 213 m. and span a distance of about 7 km.

The topography due to overflow channels is identified east of Tikola Bandh. Here these longitudinal ridges of coarse sandy bedload of low relief with shallow broad intervening depressions cover a distance of some 8 km.

Lateral migration of the channel of the Jamuna river as observed on aerial photographs and topographical maps suggest that the river has a general tendency to enlarge meander loops, shifting perceptibly towards Uttar Pradesh. The river appears to have shifted its course locally eastward to a distance of roughly 2 km in 7 years. The westward lateral shifting of the river into the Sonipat district is slight during which process it has destroyed and rebuilt the deposits, such as splays and overbank channels.

The Sub-Recent Floodplain.—The sub-Recent floodplain or the Jamuna *khadar* constitutes a major part of the topography of the Sonipat district. It is morphologically segmented into the features of point bar accumulation and meander scrolls. The point bars are made of alternating series of arcuate to linear ridges of stratified sand to mud-sized material deposited at the outside bend of meandering channels. The intervening depressions or swales are accumulation of finer sediments from overflows. In most cases, these swales provide favourable conditions for waterlogging. In essence, each point bar represents migration of the channel during floods. The meander scroll topography results from abandoning of channels through short meandering loops of laterally shifting channels on the floodplain or the surface of the older alluvium. In such a process of migration, complexly interlaced network of abandoned channels is produced. Consequently, the meander scroll topography displays large micro-variations in slope and relief properties of the floodplain.

Between the irregular boundary of the Recent floodplain and some 1 km to the west of the National Highway No. 1 is the topography dominated by point bars and meander scrolls. From north to south, the point bar may be observed in the district around the settlements. Approximate elevation values in metres for these settlements are connected with the areas: Ghasoli, Kamashpur, Bahargarh, Dipalpur, Kheora, Khurrampur, and Kundli. The relative relief in these areas is upto 3 metres. The swale and ridge topography is characteristic of extensive *kallar* and at places up to 90 per cent of the land is unfit for cultivation due to salt hazards, waterlogging and coarse soils. However, it is in the swales that the finegrained sediments have been extensively utilised for brick-making. At least two beautiful oxbow lakes have been observed in the point bar topography. The one fully developed oxbow lake exists to the

west of Sersa and east of Kundli on the National Highway No. 1. Further north, a silted-up, and not so well developed, oxbow lake may be noticed near Teha on the National Highway No. 1.

Numerous abandoned and buried channel segments are typical features of the meander scroll topography. In the *khadar* of the Sonipat district, such micro-relief element of the fluvial landscape cannot be discerned on the Survey of India topographical maps of the area. Occasionally, the topography due to meander necks is also a salient feature of the *khadar* terrain. Bidhal, for example, is situated on a beautiful broad meander neck to the east of Bainswal distributary. Similarly, the Pinana village to the southeast of Bidhal also occupies a position atop a meander neck. Meander neck, by definition, is a topographic feature resulting from the process of neck cut-off in a freely meandering belt.

Some sizable abandoned channels that span the district from west to east may be referred to as near Rabhra situated to the west of Drain No. 8, north of Bidhlan and near Bhagan, between the north of Mahlana and Juan, northwest of Salimpur Torali, north of Bhadi, Dobheta and between Aanwali, and Bilbilan villages where several such small abandoned segments of palaeochannels exist. It is in these tracts of intersecting channels in short shallow loops that extensive salt afflorescences and waterlogging conditions have locally developed. These are several such instances in the district. Some palaeochannels, 4 kilometer or more in length are generally restricted to the topography dominated by point bars and meander scrolls near the Jamuna river. These may be observed between Smalkha Drain to Kheri Gujar, and beyond south of Rathdhana, between Datauli and Ghasoli, east of Rajlu, near Piplikhera, between Murthal and Nangal Khurd, from Bakhtawarpur to Mehndipur and between Basaudi and Palra. Often aggraded channels occur between Dipalpur and Jakhauli.

A few buried channel segments have also been recognised in the *khadar* tract of the Sonipat district. From east to west, these buried channels may be observed near Rathdhana, Lahrara, Bhadana, Bhatgaon and Ganwari.

The meander scroll topography lies approximately between 230 and 220 metres above the mean sea level. The elevation decreases towards the east and south.

Imprints left by the meandering channels across the previously existing Pleistocene upland surface viz., meander scrolls, point bars, abandoned and buried channels, and meander necks, suggest that the traditional boundary between the *khadar* and *bhangar* does not pass to the east of the Sonipat town, or long or near the National Highway no. 1. In fact, the line of separation is rather poorly defined and needs a careful delineation. As a rough approximation, the area of *bhangar* terrain does not exceed more than 10 per cent of the total area of the district, and it lies well to the west of Rathdhana and Bhawar.

The anomalously large area of the *khadar* that occupies the Sonipat district may perhaps be explained by the presence of subsurface fault, a few thousand metres beneath the alluvial cover¹. It is possibly in response to the movements along these faults recorded by the seismic activity around Delhi that the Jamuna has been able to rapidly swing its course since the Quaternary.

The Pleistocene Upland Surface.—The *bhangar* is a topographically flat, almost expressionless surface of deep alluvial cover. In this tract, the elevations roughly vary between 230 and 235 metres above the mean sea level.

Drainage

The Jamuna river shares a common boundary of some 49 kilometres between Uttar Pradesh and Sonipat district. During this course, the river falls in elevation from 218 to 209 metres, giving it a very gentle gradient of about 1 metre per 5.44 kilometres. Nowhere in the district is the free flow of the river utilised for irrigation or industrial usages.

Groundwater

Due to poor surface drainage on account of the nature of topography, systems of abundant palaeochannels and surface materials described above, the water table is very high. These conditions accentuate the poor surface drainage from irrigated fields. Seepage from the Jamuna river, and distributaries and field channels taking-off principally from the Bhautat Branch are the other conditions leading to a high subsurface water level in the district. In most of the area, waterlogged and potentially waterlogged (water table within 1.52 metres from the surface) conditions are a rule than exception. It is only in few tracts bordering Delhi and Rohtak districts that the water table is up to 6 metres deep.

The Groundwater Directorate, Karnal has estimated the groundwater potential of the Sonipat district at 502 million cubic metres, of which the reservoir of fresh water alone accounts for 68 per cent of the total groundwater, available for exploitation.² Whereas the percentage utilisation as on 1st April 1972 was determined to be 25 per cent of the available exploitable resource, it exceeded beyond the natural recharge into the ground-water reservoir, and stood at 514 million cubic metres in 1981-82. The accent on exploitation of groundwater in the district is, thus, evident. If this trend continues in the years ahead, it will lead to over exploitation and finally to ground-water mining a practice that should not be encouraged under the existing groundwater balance conditions.

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1. Sinha, R.K. (1986), Morphotectonic evolution of the Quaternary landsystems of the middle reaches of Yamuna Basin. In *International Symposium on Neotectonics in South Asia*, Dehra Dun, Feb. 18—21, pp. 289—300.
 2. Groundwater Directorate, Karnal (1973), *Groundwater potential of Haryana* Tech. Rept. 115, 9 pp. (memo).

CHAPTER II

HISTORY

THE ANCIENT PERIOD

There has never been any doubt regarding the antiquity of the district. This has been well established by A. Cunningham¹ and B.B. Lal² and the recent explorations conducted by the researchers of the Department of Ancient Indian History, Culture and Archaeology, Kurukshetra University, confirm it³. The region has yielded pottery of pre-Harappan, Harappan, late Harappan, Painted Grey Ware, Early historical, Northern Black polished Ware and Early medieval times⁴ showing thereby that parts of the district were inhabited by different people, some of these parts show continuity while in others there is a break⁵. The evidence so far available-archaeological as well as literary is quite meagre even to provide any clear outline of the historical growth of the district during the early phases.⁶

The Pre-Harappans were the earliest people inhabiting the district as can be gathered from the discovery of their pottery similar to that found at Kalibangan and remains of their mud-brick walls from the surface of a mound from the village Rindhana (in Gohana tahsil).⁷ The next phase of the material

1. A. Cunningham, *Numismatic Chronicle*, 1872, p. 161.
2. B.B. Lal, 'Archaeology and the two Indian Epics,' *Annals of Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute*, LIV, 1973, pt. I-IV, pp. 1-8; *Ancient India*, Bulletin of the Archaeological Survey of India, Nos. 10 & 11, 1954 ('Excavation at Hastinapura and other Exploration in the Upper-Ganga and Sutlej Basins, 1950-52', pp. 145, 148-9); 'The Indian Express' 7th October, 1975 (for extract of Prof. B.B. Lal's lecture delivered at Delhi).
3. Suraj Bhan, *Excavation of Mitathal (1968) and other Explorations in Sutlej-Yamuna Divide*, Kurukshetra, 1975, pp. 125-126; Silak Ram, *Archaeology of Rohtak & Hissar Districts* (Haryana), Kurukshetra, Ph. D. Thesis (K.U.K.), 1972 (unpublished), pp. 32-63; Surender Singh Hooda, *Archaeology of Sonapat*, M. Phil. Dissertation, K.U.K. (unpublished), 1984, pp. 9-22; Brahma Datt, *Settlements of Painted Grey Ware in Haryana*, Ph. D. thesis, (K.U.K.), 1980 (unpublished).
4. *Ibid.*
5. Surender Singh Hooda, *op. cit.*, p. 11.
6. Even in the field of art, the district has produced very little evidence. Only two pieces of sculpture have so far been discovered from the district. The first recovered from Dhauri (in Sonapat tahsil, about 2 Kms. south-east of Larsoli on G. T. Road) is a head of a female figure, a master piece of Gupta terracotta art. Made of fine levigated clay, it presents a portrayal of a robust lady remarkable for her round face, broad eyes and prominent nose. Graphic and graceful the portrayal is enriched by magnificent hair style; the other is that of *Sessasyi* Vishnu from Fazilpur, 4 Kms., east of Sonipat and which, on stylistic grounds, may be placed in 8th-9th century A. D. (Silak Ram, *op. cit.* pp. 58-9, Pl. XIII).
7. Silak Ram *op. cit.*, p. 32 f (No. 17).

culture of the district is marked by the discovery of the Harappan Ware from Chappra and Gharwal¹ assignable to a time-bracket of C. 2300–1700 B.C. It is not possible to attempt any reconstruction of the culture of this phase on the basis of this evidence. These early settlers were perhaps followed in course of time by the late-Harappans (c. 1700–1500 B.C.) whose pottery has been recovered from a number of places such as Batana, Ahulana, Nuran Khara and Lahrarha². The pottery largely comprises thick sturdy red ware with medium fabric. The pots are wheel made and treated with light red slip, some sherds are painted with black designs over red background.³ The main shapes include dish or basin-on-stand, bowls, jars and vases. The exterior shows incised decoration with horizontal grooves, multiple wavy lines and parallel finger marks resulting in ribs over rusticated surface.⁴ Faience bangles have been recovered from Lahrarha⁵. As the explored sites are few and nothing tangible can be inferred except that these late people, as known from the evidence of a number of excavated sites in the adjoining districts represented a degraded form of culture as suggested by their inferior pottery, rarity of art forms, and in the conspicuous absence of script, seals, clay bangles, steatite and weights.⁶

The next important phase in the pre-history of the region is marked by the advent of the people using painted Grey Ware and generally associated with the Aryans. The pottery of these people has been found from a number of places⁷-Bhawal, Chandi, Chhapra, Gharwal, Ahulana, Khanpur, Nuran Khara, Akbarpur Barota, Bulandpur Kheri, Gumar and Nakloi. The Vedic literature does not help in throwing any light on the history of the region, possible it was away from the main centre of Aryan cultural activity (i.e., the region between the Sarasvati and the Drisadvati). It might possibly have been included in the kingdom of the Pandavas who ruled from Indraprastha & later from Hastinapura, but there is absolutely no evidence in support of the belief that Sonipat was one of the villages asked for by Yudhisthira as a pre-condition for concluding peace with his cousins, the Kauravas.

1. *Ibid.*, (Nos. 5 & 7).

2. Silak Ram, *op. cit.*, (Numbers—38, 16) Surender Singh, *op. cit.*, pp. 11, 18-19, 46-8.

3. Surender Singh Hooda, *op. cit.*, pp. 46-7.

4. *Ibid.*, p. 47.

5. *Ibid.*, pp. 19, 56.

6. Suraj Bhan, *op. cit.*,

R.S. Bisht, 'Excavations at Banawali: 1974–77', *Proceedings of the Seminar on Harappan Culture in Indo-Pak Sub-Continent*, Srinagar, 1978;

S.P. Sen (ed.), *Sources of the History of India*, Vol. II, p. 112, (Suraj Bhan's paper 'Recent Archaeological Investigations and their contribution to the Cultural History of Haryana

Suraj Bhan, *Mitathal Report*, p. 126.

Silak Ram, *op. cit.*, pp. 32–63, Gohana Tahsil, Nos. 2, 4, 5, 7, (II), 8, 11, 16; Sonipat Tahsil, Nos. 2, 7, 10, 14 (I); See also Brahma Datt, *op. cit.*

That the area was inhabited also seem to receive some support in the Buddhist literature particularly the *Nikayas*¹ which refer to a township of the kurus named Kammasadhamma, specially benefitted by the discourses of Buddha and where the latter often stayed during the course of his wanderings². The people of this town are described verywise³. The town was so named after Kalmashapada, the man-eating ogre, who was civilized here by the Bodhisatta⁴. The *Therigatha*⁵, refers to the renowned Buddhist nuns Mittakalika and Nanduttara as belonging to the Brahmin families of this village. The village has been identified with village Kamashpur situated on the G.T. Road in the Sonipat tahsil⁶. Discovery of a stone sculpture of Buddha from the area⁷ confirms close connection of the site with Buddhism. The settlement of this village is also referred to in the *Mahasutasoma* jataka which particularly mentions its shops, arches, gates and the lakes⁸. Kundi or Kundiya was yet another village wherein the nearby forest lived Anganika-Bharadvaja and close to it was Uggarama⁹. The place may be connected either with Kundli or Kundal, both places in Sonipat district¹⁰.

The earliest literary reference to Sonipat is, of course, in the *Paniniya Ashtadhyayi* where it has been mentioned along with other towns whose names end in prastha (Sonaprastha¹¹). The discovery of Early Historical and

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1. *Digha Nikaya* (ed). Rhys Davids and Estlin Carpenter, (PTS), London, 1947, II, p. 55f; *Majjhima Nikaya*, Tr. I.B. Horner, London, 1954, I, p. 70f; 501—13; II, 261 f; *Samyutta Nikaya*, II, 107f (PTS), *Angutara Nikaya*, V. 29f (PTS).
 2. *Ibid*
 3. Saratthapakasini, *Samyutta Commentary*, II, 89.
 4. Sumangalavilasini (PTS), II, 483 (*Digha Commentary*); G.P. Malalasekera, II, p. 529; for the Puranic version of the story, see S. S. Chitrav (ed.), *Bharatavarshiya Prachina Charitra-kosa*, Poona, 1964, pp. 124-125.
 5. *Therigatha Commentary* (PTS), Verses 87-96.
 6. Silak Ram, *op. cit.*, p. 104.
 7. *Ibid.*, p. 105.
 8. *The Jutakas*, Eng. Tr. E.E.B. Cowell, London, 1957, V., p. 279 (No. 537).
 9. *Therigatha Commentary* (SHB), I, 339; G.P. Malalasekera, *Dictionary of Pali Proper Names*, London, 1960, I., p. 629.
 10. Silak Ram, *op. cit.*, pp. 104-05; B.S. Upadhyaya, *Buddha Kalin Bharatya Bhngola*, ~~Bharatya~~ (S. 2018), p. 410.
 11. V.S. Agrawala, *op. cit.*

Northern Black Polished Ware suggests that parts of the district were probably inhabited in the succeeding periods¹. But the obscurity hanging around the history of the district continues till the discovery of a hoard of Indo-Greek coins (about 1200 hemidrachms) from Sonipat². The legends on these coins bear the names of eleven Indo-Greek kings³-Heliocles, Apollodotus, Strato, Antimachus II, Antialcidas, Philoxenus, Lysias, Menander, Diomedes, Amyntas and Hermaeus. The normal standard weight of the coins is 37 grains⁴. The discovery leaves no doubt that the Greeks attacked the region during the second century B.C. and continued to rule there towards the last quarter of the first century B.C. or the beginning of the first century A.D.⁵.

The Kushanas and the Yaudheyas also seem to have ruled over parts of the region. This is indicated by the discovery of a hoard of 10,000 copper coins by Silak Ram from Sonipat⁶. These are of four categories-Ramadatta, Kushana, Yaudheya and proto-type of Puri-Kushana coins. Of the first, there is only one coin and the ruler may possibly be identified with the one ruling over Mathura towards the end of 2nd century B.C. or the beginning of the first century B.C. The Kushana coins are those of Huvishka, Vasudeva I and the latter's imitation coins⁷. The coins have some differences with Puri-Kushana coins in form as well as in weight⁸. The proto-type Puri-Kushana coins on the basis of their variation in shape and distribution have been identified as belonging to the later-Kushanas of north-western India of the third-fourth centuries A.D.⁹ who are known to have established tributary relations with Samudragupta¹⁰. The Yaudheyas who were prominent republican people of the third-fourth century A.D. are known from their coins

1. Surender Singh, *op. cit.*, pp. 9, 11 ;
Silak Ram, *op. cit.*, pp. 32—63; Tahsil Gohana, Nos. 1, 2, 5, 7, (III), 9, 11, 16, 19; Tahsil Sonipat, Nos. 1, 2, 7, 8, 12, (I), 13, 17, 19, 20, 22.
2. A. Cunningham, *Numismatic Chronicle*, 1872, p. 161;
District Gazetteer Rohtak, 1970, p. 332;
Silak Ram, *op. cit.*, p. 116f.
3. *Ibid* ; Surender Singh, *op. cit.*, p. 23.
4. Surrender Singh, *op. cit.*
5. Silak Ram, *op. cit.*, pp. 115, 118; for the Chronological position of the Greek rulers see—V.A. Smith, *catalogue of the coins in the Indian Museum Calcutta*, Vol. I, 1972, Varanasi, pp. 3—34.
6. *Ibid*.
7. Surender Singh, *op. cit.*, pp. 25—37 Silak Ram, *op. cit.*, pp. 262—66.
8. Surender Singh, *op. cit.*, p. 42, also 41—44 ; Silak Ram, *op. cit.*, pp. 264—65,
9. Surender Singh, *op. cit.*, p. 42.
10. Allahabad Pillar Inscription of Samudragupta, line 23.

bearing the legend *Yaudheya Ganasya Jahyah* (i.e. victory to the Yaudheya republic) along with their confederating units or administrative divisions¹. With the rise of Samudragupta, the Yaudheya domination ended. The Allahabad Pillar Inscription states that the Yaudheyas carried out his (Samudragupta's) furious commands by paying all tributes, obeying his orders and offering salutations². What happened to the region after the disappearance of the Yaudheyas from the political scene is not known. The region might possibly have come under the domination of the Guptas and thereafter of the Hunas till the rise of the Vardhanas in the Srikanthajanapada with their capital at Thanesar sometime in the second part of the 6th century A.D.³. During this time there comes across for the first time a historical document from this region namely the Sonipat Copper Seal of Harshavardhana. It was recovered by J.F. Fleet from the possession of Mehar Singh Ramrattan Mahajan, a merchant of Sonipat city⁴. At the top of the seal is a bull and below is the inscription. The language is Sanskrit and the composition is in prose throughout. It provides the genealogy of the dynasty from Rajyavardhana I to Harsha also providing their political status as well as their religious leanings⁵.

After the shifting of the Vardhana capital to Kanauj sometime in A.D. 606-607 the decline of the region began and continued to be so till the establishment of the Sultanate at Delhi in A.D. 1206.

THE MEDIEVAL PERIOD

Before giving an account of the region, it is important to realise the geographical significance of its location. There were two routes from across the mountains in north-west by which foreign invaders came to India. The northern route through the Khyber pass followed the ancient Mauryan highway from Purushapura to Patliputra. It passed through a more politically alive, settled and fertile part of the Punjab. During the course of Indian history, this route was followed by invaders during the early winter months when the rivers of the Punjab were easily fordable. The southern route was from Khurasan to Delhi.

1. Silak Ram, *op. cit.* pp. 129, 130-131.

2. Allahabad Pillar Inscription, line 22.

3. R.C. Majumdar (ed), *The Classical Age*, p. 97; see also V.N. Datta and H.A. Phadke, *History of Kurukshetra*, 1984, pp. 56-8.

4. J.F. Fleet, *Corpus Inscriptionum Indicarum*, Vol. III, Varanasi, 1963, p. 231 ff.

5. *Ibid*; Surender Singh, *op. cit.* pp 44-5.

The Tomra Rajputs ruled over 'Hariyana' from Delhi when the Ghaznavids invaded from the north-west. The kingdom of Lahore was annexed by the Ghaznavids by 1020. Sultan Masud, the successor of Sultan Mahmud, with the aim to extend his power and territory advanced towards Hansi (District Hisar) and invaded the fort. After the fall of Hansi, he marched to Sonipat and defeated its Governor, Dipal Har¹. From Sonipat he advanced towards the Kingdom of Ram Rai who saved himself from molestation by offering him valuable presents. While the Tomaras of Delhi succeeded in recovering these territories, they made no attempt to oust the Muslims from the kingdom of Lahore. The later Ghaznavids were not able to extend their power. Nor did the Tomaras attempt to oust them. Thus, for about 150 years the Muslims and Rajputs co-existed side by side. This position, however, changed with the fall of the Ghaznavids, when the kingdom of Lahore fell into the hands of the Ghurids and the Tomaras of Delhi were overpowered by the Chahamanas.

The Delhi Sultanate, established in 1206, depended on the support of Muslim nobles. On account of their nearness to Delhi, the Rohtak and Sonipat areas influenced the struggles among the aspirants for the throne of Delhi. The Haryana in general and the Rohtak and Sonipat areas with its population of Jats and Rajputs in particular could, therefore, be a source of strength or weakness to the Sultans depending on the political circumstances.

After ascending on the throne in 1206, Qutb-ud-din Aibak set up the military check-posts in the Haryana region. Sonipat was one of the very important military check posts².

When Balban (1266—87) acquired the throne, he devoted himself fully to improve the ill-managed administrative affairs in this region. He also set up military check posts at Sohna, Rewari, Narnaul, Kanaud, Sonipat, Hansi and Thanesar. These check-posts were manned by the army officers. The number of *Iqtas*, already introduced by Iltutmish, was increased. The newly created *Iqtas* were of Sonipat, Barwala, Kanaud (Present Mahendragarh), Kaithal and Shiwaliks.

Ghazi Malik of Tughlaq dynasty known as Gyasuddin Tughlaq was the first ruler of Tughlaq dynasty. Who paid special attention towards the administrative affairs of Haryana region. He divided the whole territory into *Iqtas* and *Shiqqas*.

1. R.C. Majumdar, *The History and Culture of the Indian People*, Vol. V, 1974. *The Struggle for Empire*, p. 93.

2. K.C. Yadav, *Haryana Ka Itihas* (Hindi), Vol. II, 1981, p. 32.

After Firuz Tughlaq, his successor Abruq (1389-90) did not affect the administrative changes on a major scale, but his successor Mahmud Nasiru Din (1394—1412) made some territorial adjustments. Besides other changes, some *Shiqqas*, i.e. Sonipat, Panipat, Jhajjar and Rohtak were placed under the control of a Commander Nushrat Shahnam.

From the Tughlaq dynasty to Mughal dynasty (1526), no major changes affected the present Sonipat district. But the social position of the Hindus was pitiable in these days.

The Hindus were relegated to an inferior position and were forbidden to observe their religious rites. They were also prohibited from building new temples and repairing old ones. In the words of Srivastava¹, "throughout the period of the Sultanate of Delhi and, in fact, for nearly forty years after its extinction, there existed in our country two grades of citizenship : the superior grade for the Muslims who were considered the privileged class, and the inferior grade for the Hindus who were treated as the depressed in their own homeland."

Firoz Tughlaq was fanatic and a puritanical Muslim and rode roughshod over the little liberties that the Hindus enjoyed in the matter of religion. Afif says that he burnt alive in open court a Brahman who had converted a Muslim lady, and imposed *Jizya* on the Brahmans, not caring even for their fast unto death in protest. He himself writes that he imposed ban on the construction of new temples and got the newly-built temple at Gohana demolished and their priests, who spread idolatry, killed. Side by side, he also suppressed the shias and panthaists enforced *purdah* system and suppressed the customs and ceremonies which smacked of Hindu influence. The people, tired and tortured with the excesses of the former times, were in no mood to rise in revolt².

Bounded by the Shiwaliks in the north, the river Yamuna in the east, the Aravalli ranges and a part of Thar desert in the south, the river Sutlej in the West, Haryana comprised the *sarkars* of Delhi, Rewari, Hisar Firoza and Sirhind during the Mughal period. Owing to its geographical situation, this region occupied a very important position in the history of that period. It was here at the battle field of Panipat, Babar laid the foundations of his Indian empire³

Taking advantage of the chaotic conditions, Babar made a forceful attack on India in the last day of the year 1525 A.D. He passed through the Punjab without meeting any opposition and reached Ambala in the early part of 1526⁴. From this place Babar marched via Shahbad along the river

1. *The Mughal Indian Culture*, p. 5.

2. *History of the Punjab* (A.D. 1000-1526) by Fauja Singh, 1972, IIIrd Vol. p. 219.

3. Dr. Buddha Prakash, *Glimpses of Haryana*, 1967 p. 50.

4. *Ibid.*

Yamuna to Karnal. There he heard that Ala-ud-din, whom he had sent on towards Delhi had been defeated by Ibrahim Lodhi and that the latter had advanced to Ganaur. After a short stay at Gharaunda, Babar led his army to Panipat, which he selected for the battle field. The historic battle of Panipat was fought here on 21st April, 1526. In the battle, Ibrahim Lodhi was slain and his forces were utterly routed.

Then Babar left for Sonipat where the unsettled conditions were prevailing. When Babar arrived at Sonpat (Sonipat), the Chiefs and Chaudharis of the city, together with the soldiers and bankers and other class, went to visit him; and they were treated with honour and kindness¹. After settling the chaotic conditions at Sonipat, Babar proceeded towards Delhi.

Probably owing to the opposition offered by the people of Haryana, Akbar did not like them throughout his life. As a matter of fact, he took delight in seeing them suffering. During his time the present Sonipat district was a part of *Subah* Delhi. Sonipat and Ganaur the then *paraganas* formed part of *Delhi Sarkar*; and Gohana was part of *sarkar* of Hisar-Firoza.

With the death of Aurengzeb in 1707, the Mughal rule in India ceased to exist to be an effective force. None of his successors proved to be worthy of great responsibility and Delhi, soon turned into a mere cockpit of warring powers. The then Haryana suffered a lot during this period owing to the *gardis* (hurly-burly) of the Jats, Rohillas, Sikhs and Marathas.

After the death of Aurangzeb his successors could not check the chaotic conditions here and there. The Sonipat-Rohtak-Panipat-Karnal areas were outwardly under the Mughals but, in fact, no body cared for the authority of the Government (King).

The chaotic conditions were already prevailing in the Gohana-Sonipat areas but the invasion of Banda added much more to the deteriorating affairs. The Governors of Delhi, Sirhind and Jammu acted independently and had no co-operation among themselves. Banda directed his attention to the east towards Delhi. There were two motives behind this move. He wanted to leave Mata Sahib Devi in Delhi and plunder the Government officials and rich muslims of the fertile areas of Haryana. From Kharkhauda about north-west of Delhi, Mata Sahib Devi, widow of Guru Gobind Singh was sent to Delhi under proper escort, to join Mata Sundari, widow of Guru Gobind Singh, who was acting as head of the *Khalsa*.

1. *The History of India as told by its own Historians*, Vol. V, by Elliot and Dowson, p. 34.

At Sonipat, 50 Km. of Delhi, early in November, 1709 Banda Commanded about 500 followers. He attacked the government treasury, plundered it and distributed the booty among his retinue. This was his second success against the Government and it considerably raised his prestige. By slow marches he advanced towards Sirhind¹.

Banda Bahadur established his headquarters at Sehri-Khanda villages of Sonipat district in 1709-10. During a very short period, many people became his followers. He made an abortive attempt to end the Mughal empire.

In May, 1710, emperor Bahadur Shah got the news of Sikh rebellion in Panjab ; he hurriedly settled terms with the Rajputs of Rajasthan and left for Panjab towards the close of June, 1710.

In July, 1710, the emperor appointed Jain-ud-Ahmad Khan Governor of Sirhind. In August, 1710, Firoz Khan Mewati was placed in command of the advanced-guard. Muhammad Amin Khan with his son Qamar-ud-din Khan joined the emperor in Haryana. By a proclamation, ingress into and egress from Delhi was strictly forbidden. Kokaltash Khan was given charge of Sonipat.

Early in September, 1710, all the Hindus in the camp were clean-shaved to avoid any resemblance with the Sikhs. Muslim Chiefs and Jagirdars joined the imperial forces on their way. Churaman Jat of Bharatpur reported himself on duty in the royal camp near Delhi.

The emperor was so much worried that he did not enter the capital while returning from Rajasthan and marched straight to Sonipat in the last week of October, 1710. Here he learnt the news of a couple of engagements with the Sikhs. Firoz Khan Mewati had fought an action with Binod Singh at Amin, 24 Km. North of Karnal, and he presented 300 Sikhs heads to the emperor at Sonipat². He was given one lakh rupees and appointed Governor of Sirhind in supersession of his previous orders for the appointment of Zain-ud-din Khan.

After the death of Banda in 1716, Farrukh Siyar settled the chaotic situation in the Sonipat area in particular and Haryana in general.

Towards the close of 1738 and at the time of Nadir Shah's invasion, the Mughal empire had lost its vigour and energy. There were internal turmoils and conspiracies. The distant Governors and frequent irruptions

1. Hari Ram Gupta, *History of the Sikhs*, Vol-II, 1937, p. 8.

2. *Ibid* p. 17.

of foreign hordes were fostering the pursuit of selfish interest and general slackening of allegiance.

The news that Nadir Shah intended to invade India was received at first with ridicule, but when it became known that he had taken Kabul, incredulity gave way to panic, which increased with every stage of the invader's advance.

Even at this moment of peril the great nobles of the empire could not lay aside their personal quarrels and with scarcely an exception, entered, either to assure their fortunes or to steal a march on their fellows, into seasonable correspondence with the invader.

Muhammad Shah and his army reached out of Sonipat¹ and in the later half of February reached Karnal, where it had been decided to meet the invader (Nadir Shah) in 1739.

In 1753, Marathas assumed the role of the Chief Power in India. Their assistance was often sought by the emperors and their wazirs in maintaining their position ; with the result that the politics of Delhi came to be dominated by them.

Peshwa's younger brother, Raghunath Rao, arrived at Delhi on 1st June, 1754. He helped Imad-ul-mulk in getting prime ministership, and then in changing the emperor. The Maratha general then upon demanded the tribute by Imad-ul-mulk. As no money was forthcoming, Raghunath Rao stayed in the capital for seven months, changing his camp from place to place around Delhi. Entire supply of food, fodder and fuel became exhausted.

In this region the Maratha soldiers exercised oppression on the neighbouring Jat villages, mostly of Dahiya clain. The freedom loving jats would seize in revenge Maratha mares grazing in their fields. Malhar Rao attacked their villages including Nahra, Nahri and many others. He plundered their property and sold it cheap in Delhi. The people complained to the emperor and his *Wazir*, but nothing came out of it.

After the battle of Taraori, Dattaji wound up his camp at Kunjpura on 27th December, 1759, and reached Sonipat on 29th December, 1759. He stayed at Sonipat for five days to get exact information about the Durrani movements.

At the close of the rainy season of 1760, the Marathas under Sadashiv Rao Bhau marched upon Kunjpura (Karnal district). The fort of Kunjpura was well-stocked with money and provisions, of which the Marathas were in

1. *The Cambridge History of India*, Volume IV, by Wolsley Haig, p. 359.

sore need. It was held by Nijabat Khan with 10,000 picked Rohillas. It was seized by the Marathas after a fierce bombardment. The garrison was put to the sword on the pretext that Nijabat Khan had been responsible for the death of Datta Ji Sindtia.

The Yamuna being in floods, Ahmad Shah who was in the Doab, was unable to cross the river to prevent this disaster while the Marathas proceeded unchecked to Panipat near Panipat. At last Ahmad Shah crossed the river on October 25, 1760 and entered his tents in the garden of Fakhru at Sonipat, 2 Kilometres north of the city. Near the western bank, it was extremely marshy and muddy. Ahmad Shah ordered everyone including Shah Valikhan to break a branch or pull out reeds and grass and throw it on the mud. There was thick overgrowth of *Jhau* bushes. The Wazir got down from his horse and cut off a handful of the branches of *Jhau*. His eight thousand troops followed his example. In a while two metres high heap was piled up. Not to speak of men and horses, even elephants carrying cannon tied to their waist passed over it easily¹. The entire army crossed over in three days on 25, 26 and 27 October. Some boats were also captured on the western bank. These were used to carry heavy baggage across the river by numerous trips. About a thousand men were drowned.

At Sonipat on 27th October, Ahmed Shah enquired of Najib : "Where are the troops posted by the Marathas with naked backs to guard the bank of the river ?" Najib replied that they were a few kilometres northward. Ahmad Shah ordered Shah Pasand Khan, the leader of all the skirmishing parties, to march at once, and not to allow even a single man to escape. Shah Pasand Khan at the head of his 4,000 chosen troops and guided by Najib's men rushed upon him. Bhau had posted nearly a thousand militia men under Baji Hari Deshpande at the upper ferry of Sonipat. Shejwalkar writes that they were sleeping "soundly on the plains, allowing their horses to roam in the green fields for grazing". They were all cut to pieces.

On 28th October, a body of advanced patrols of the Marathas was overtaken by the Afghans near Sambhalka (Karnal district), 28 kilometres north of Sonipat. A sharp action took place in which about 1½ thousand Marathas and one thousand Afghans lost their lives. On this day Ahmad Shah reached Ganaur, 17 Kilometres north of Sonipat and 30 Kilometres South of Panipat and stayed there on 28, 29 and 30 October². The Marathas were utterly routed and many of them were driven into the town of Panipat, where

1. *Marathas and Panipat* by Hari Ram Gupta, 1961, pp. 168-169,

2. *Ibid.*

next morning the Conqueror brought them out, distributed the women and children among his troops and massacred the men in cold blood. The fugitives were followed all over the country and killed whenever they were overtaken.

It is said that the Bhau finding his armies defeated started towards Gohana. Taking shelter among the villagers on his way in the guise of *Sadhu*, he went south of Gohana. Acute scarcity of fodder had prevailed in the region in that winter. The people had cut down even the branches of trees to feed their cattle.

The impact of the third battle of Panipat was far-reaching on the people of Haryana in particular and on the whole country in general. Historians' assessment about the consequences of the battle is as follows :

"The Third Battle of Panipat (1761) decided the fate of India. The Maratha and Muhammadans weakened each other in that deadly conflict, facilitating the aims of the British for Indian supremacy. The rising power got thereby the opportunity it needed so much to strengthen and consolidate its authority in India. If Plassey had sown the seeds of British supremacy in India, Panipat offered time for their maturing and striking roots¹."

In September, 1765, the Sikhs assembled at Amritsar and decided to plunder Haryana. In consequence they marched thither and after passing through Sirhind divided themselves into two bodies ; *Taruna Dal*. and *Budha Dal*. After the battle of Shamli, the *Taruna Dal* advanced towards Delhi and joined the *Budha Dal* in the neighbourhood of Kharkhoda, east of Rohtak.

The Sikhs invaded the territories of Najib-ud-Daula in 1767. When he became aware about their activities , he came forward, then Sikh plunderers turned back. Some Sikh soldiers under the leadership of Jassa Singh invaded the Sonipat areas. Many skirmishes took place and ultimately the Sikhs won the day.

Taking advantage of the illness of Najib-ud-Daula, who held the charge of Haryana then, the Sikhs launched their raids again into this territory in January, 1770. They arrived near Panipat on the 4th January plundering and ravaging the country as they went. Najib-ud-Daula's son Zabita Khan, however, tried to oppose them, but he could not carry out his plans properly. The Sikhs plundered every village between Panipat and Delhi.

1. *An Advanced History of India* by Majumdar, Ray Chudhri and Datta, 1967, p. 546.

No sooner was the news of the removal of the strong hand of Najub-ud-Daula known to the Sikhs, than they carried several plundering raids into the neighbouring district of Panipat. This tract, in which were situated the cities of Sonipat, Panipat and Karnal, had become a prey to complete anarchy in the third quarter of the 18 century. It formed a sort of no man's land between the Sikh and Maratha powers, coveted by both but protected by neither. It fell a victim to every free booter who happened to come that way¹.

Nawab Abdul Ahad Khan (alias Majd-ud-daulah) and the prince Jahan Shah Farkhunda Bakht left Delhi on the 18th June, 1779 to attack on Patiala Chief. The Nawab marched along the western bank of the Jamuna so that the soldiers might not suffer from want of water, and the prince being very fond of fishing could enjoy this pastime. The first halt was made at Barari Ghat on the 26th June; they were at Bakhtawarpur in *Paraganah* Haveli. At Barota in *paraganah* Sonipat, the Prince caught a lot of fish which he presented to his nobles. On the 29th July, they encamped 6 kilometres from Panipat.

After the surrender of widow queen of Nawal Jat King on March 17, 1780, Najaf Quli Khan turned towards the areas of Sonipat-Rohtak and Bhiwani. These areas were under the control of Baluchis. He wrested these areas without any stiff opposition.

A complete anarchy was prevailing in the Cis-Satluj country, and internecine warfare was going on among the Sikhs. So momentous was the effect of the civil war among the Sikhs on the imperial court that the Mughal nobles now considered it practicable to take charge of crownlands in the then Karnal district. They wanted to achieve success by playing off one party against the other.

On the 16th September, 1780 Najaf Quli Khan attended a feast given by Raja Himmat Bahadur. The Khan told the Raja that he intended to take a body of the Sikhs in his service. The same day Najaf Quli requested Najaf Khan to grant him the areas of Karnal, Panipat, Jind and Gohana in *Jagir*². The Wazir replied that after consulting Opat astrologer he would inform him.

Mahadji Sindhia deputed Amba Ji Ingle, faujdar, to join over the Sikhs during February-March, 1785. Ingle proceeded to Barari Ghat to meet the Sikhs who in a body of about 12,000 men under the leadership of nine chiefs lay encamped near Sonipat. Some Sikhs approached Ingle's camp and carried away a number of his camels. Ingle opened negotiations with them, and

1. Dr. Budhha Prakash, *Glimpses Of Haryana*, 1967, p. 64.

2. *History Of the Sikhs* by Hari Ram Gupta, *Second Revised Edition*, 1930, Vol.- III, pp. 124-125.

met the Sikh leaders on the bank of the Jamuna. He fixed his camp at Bakhtawarpur (21 Kms north of Delhi), while the Sikhs were halting at Ganaur (40 Kms north of Delhi). He tried his level best to attract the Sikhs to Sindhia's interest, but to little effect.

The Sindhia concluded a treaty with the Sikhs on 9th May, 1785. The particulars of the treaty were as follows:—

“The chief of the Khalsa with a force of 5,000 horse being united in connection with the *sarcar* and the victorious army, shall receive allowances and a *jagir* of 10 *lacs* of rupees. Of this *Jagir* 7½ *lacs* of rupees are in the neighbourhood of Karnal and 2½ *lacs* from the country of the *Sarcar*. Four paraganas of Gohana, Kharkhoda, Tosham¹ and Maham, worth 2.5 lakhs of rupees were granted on this occasion.”

In December, 1789, the Sikhs made preparations to accompany the Rohilla lady and her son to the Doab. In February, 1790, the Sikhs assembled in large number of Sindhia's territory ready to invade the Doab. In March they ravaged the country lying between Karnal and Sonipat.

When the Dallewalia Sikhs attacked Patiala territory in May, 1790, Nanu Mal had to seek assistance from Sindhia, and sent his son to wait upon him. Sindhia despatched Devji Gavle and Bapuji Malhar at the head of a force. About the end of May, they reached Sonipat where they plundered a few villages and realized fifty thousand rupees as tribute. The Maratha generals halted at Panipat and refrained from marching into the heart of the Sikh country.

The contingents of Begam Samru was ordered to march to Kanaud to reinforce Appa Khade Rao. Gopal Rao Raghunath called upon Raja Sahib Singh of Patiala to help Appa Khande Rao. The Raja at once made preparations to leave at the head of a force. The Sikhs who had just returned did not like this policy. On the 7th March Gopal Rao encamped near Delhi. Shah Nizam-ud-din deputed Chimaji Pant to Gopal Rao to represent to him that his halt in the neighbourhood of the city was causing great inconvenience to the people, as his troops were destroying the crops. On the 13th April, 1792 Gopal Rao and De Boigne halted at Kharkhoda (32 Kms north of Rohtak). Devji Gavle and Bapuji Malhar who were the leaders of the Maratha advance-guard invested the village Sanghi (Rohtak district), for having declined to pay tribute. The village which had a population of 10,000 offered resistance and in the fight nearly 700 persons were killed and wounded. Gopal Rao marched to the village. The Zamindars, finding resistance useless, sought the intervention of De Boigne and paid a tribute of twenty thousand rupees. On the 17th April, 1792, Gopal Rao marched from Sanghi to Sonipat and he stayed there for a week.

1. Now Tosham is a part of Bhiwani district and Meham that of Rohtak district.

Among the most notorious adventurers in the northern India towards the end of the 18th century, was George Thomas, an Irish, known in Haryana as *Jahaz Sahib*. After facing many ups and downs in life, George Thomas became the protege of a Maratha leader, Appa Khandi Rao.

Lakhwa Dada, the Maratha Commander of Saharanpur, sought the assistance from Appa Khande Rao Hari to check the plundering activities of the Sikhs in October, 1795. He despatched George Thomas to help him. George Thomas crushed the Sikhs. Lakhwa Dada, "a man of some what imbued with the spirit of chivalry", was so deeply impressed with the achievement of George Thomas that he borrowed his services from Appa Khande Rao, and appointed him to the charge of Sonipat, Panipat and Karnal districts with 2,000 infantry, 200 cavalry and 16 pieces of field artillery. Thus George became 'warden of the marches' for Sindhia's dominions. Bapu Ji Malhar who was at that time the Officer in charge of Sonipat-Panipat district was transferred to Saharanpur¹. George Thomas who granted the revenues of Sonipat-Panipat and Karnal districts for the maintenance of his force.

Appa Khande Rao committed suicide by drowning himself in the Jamuna in 1797. His death was a severe blow to George Thomas who was then left without a patron. Soon afterwards he was taken in service by Bapu ji Malhar, Governor of Saharanpur. After employment of about a year or so, differences arose between him and his master. Bapu ji dismissed him and areas including (Sonipat) already granted to him were resumed. George Thomas was again left without a master and without the means to feed and pay his troops numbering 3,000. He took to the profession of a free-booter and began plundering towns and cities in the neighbourhood of Delhi. These constant efforts gave him an idea of setting himself up as a Sovereign over some territory.

Consequently, before the close of 1798, George Thomas carved out an independent principality for himself in a tract always covered with green grass, and for that reason called Haryana. Gradually he extended his sway over the areas of Gurgaon, Rohtak, Sonipat, Hissar and Bhiwani districts.

After making his position somewhat stable, Thomas took a marauding expedition into the Sikh territory. He was opposed by a superior body of the Sikhs and, therefore, he returned to George-garh through Kaithal, Jind, Sonipat and Panipat. Meanwhile, there were some disturbances in his territory but they were soon brought under control.

Thomas's growing power was a cause of jealousy and apprehension to Sindhia and his General Perron. George Thomas was asked to subject

1. *Memoirs of George Thomas*, p. 267.

himself to the authority of Sindhia, but he declined to do so. The refusal ultimately resulted in a quarrel between two powers. An account of the last battle of Thomas with the British is as follows:—

“Thomas could not have hoped to have held out long against such a force in case; but treachery was at work within his camp and he was also deserted by several of his Chief Officers, and compelled to fly away by night to Hansi. His enemies speedily followed him there; much the same scene of baseness was re-enacted; and in February, 1802, Thomas abandoned claims to power and agreed to pass over into the British territory where he died shortly afterwards on his way to Calcutta. He is still spoken of admiringly by the people, whose affections he gained by his gallantry and kindness; and he seems never to have tarnished the name of his country by the gross actions that most military adventurers in India have been guilty of.”

THE BRITISH PERIOD

Within two years of the abandonment of his dominion by George Thomas, the rising power of Sindhia in northern India was completely broken by the British forces under General Lake in the second Maratha War. The Gohana areas of Sonipat district passed on to the British East India Company by the treaty of Surji Arjungeon in 1803.

General Lake was of the view that the British should not hold large territories beyond the Yamuna. Accordingly a number of chiefs and leaders who had done good military service against the Marathas or had at least remained neutral, were settled to form a barrier of independent outposts between the British border and Cis-Sutlej Sikh estates as well as the trans Sutlej rising kingdom of Ranjit Singh.

The new Masters—the British East India Company—exercised direct control only over the ‘assigned territory’ which comprised the *paraganas* of Sonipat, Ganaur and other parts of this district. The reasons for taking this territory under direct control were three-fold. In the first place the co-operation and occupation of this territory was very essential for an effective hold over the historic city of Delhi. In the second place, this territory would provide financial provision for the royal household; and in the third place, since its situation was of utmost strategic importance, it would provide military basis for security of company’s possessions from the Sikhs and others in the north-west and the Rajputs, etc. from the side of Rajasthan¹.

1. *Gazetteer of the Rohrak District, 1883-84*, p. 20-21.
 0. *Journal of Haryana Studies*, Vol. XII 1980, P.47.

To conduct the administration of this territory, a Resident was appointed. He was assisted by few assistants. The senior-most was called head assistant and he was to officiate as Collector of revenue under the supervision of the Resident.

Gohana and Kharkhauda-Mandothi areas were given to Raja Bhag Singh of Jind and Bhai Lal Singh of Kaithal as life *jagirs*.

The Gohana and Kharkhauda-Mandothi estates lapsed to the British Government on the deaths of Lal Singh in A.D. 1818 and Bhag Singh in 1820. In 1824, Gohana and Kharkhauda-Mandothi units were included in Rohtak district.

By the Charter Act of 1833, the North-Western Provinces was formed. The headquarters of N.W.P. was at Agra. Under the new arrangements, the Haryana region was made one of the six divisions of the new province under the name of Delhi Division. Its headquarters was placed at Delhi. It comprised the districts of Panipat, *Hariyana*, Delhi, Rohtak and Gurgaon¹. Each district was placed under a Magistrate-Collector. The district was further divided into tahsils. In the villages, there were *Tholas* which were called panas of different Communities.

The communities in Haryana were remarkable institutions. By their wonderful proceedings they had been preserving their old culture from time immemorial. How they worked is graphically described by Metcalf in these words:

"The village communities are like little republics having nearly everything they want within themselves, and almost independent of any foreign relations. They seem to last where nothing else lasts. Dynasty after dynasty tumbles down; revolution succeeds revolution; Hindu, Pathan, Mughal, Marathas, Sikh are masters in turn; but the village communities remain the same. In times of trouble they arm and fortify themselves; a hostile army passes through the country; the village community collect their cattle within their walls and let the army pass unprovoked; if plunder and devastation be directed against themselves and the force employed be irresistible, they flee to friendly villages at a distance, but when the storm has passed over, they return and resume their occupation. If a country remains for a series of years the scene of continual pillage and massacre, so that the villages cannot be inhabited, the villagers nevertheless return whenever the power of peaceable possession revives. A generation may pass away but the succeeding generation will return. The sons will take the place of their forefathers, the same site for the village, the same position

1. Dr. Buddha Prakash, *Glimpses of Hariyana*, 1967, p. 80.

for the houses, the same lands will be reoccupied; and it is not the trifling matter that will drive them out, for they will often maintain their post through times of disturbance and convulsion, and acquire strength sufficient to resist pillage and oppression with success¹.

UPRISING OF 1857

The majority of the people in this area showed sympathy with the uprising of 1857. The soldiers, particularly *Rangaers* and Jats, who had been serving in the army of East India Company were discontented with the British. The Sepoys of the regiments coming home on leave instigated the villagers against the British. Thus, they spread disaffection in the rural areas. Noticing these symptoms, John Adam. Loch, Collector of Rohtak, took steps to preserve order by calling into headquarters of all sepoys who were on leave in the district.

Although seething with the fire of revolt in their hearts, the people did not rise in revolt until May 23, 1857 when Tafzal Hussain an emissary of emperor Bahadur Shah came to Rohtak with a small force. The Tahsildar of Rohtak, Bakhtawar Singh, who had been sent there to meet him, was unequal to the task of encountering the rebels and fled to Rohtak. The Deputy Commissioner, Loch, at first wished to stay at his post and fight the enemy, who were not strong in numbers; but ultimately despairing of success, he left the place by night, accompanied only by the Thanedar, Bhurekhan and made his way by early on the morning of the 24th to Gohana. He passed to Karnal without stopping at Gohana and the tahsildar Bakhtawar Singh of the latter place deserted his charge and fled. The Thanedar Bhure Khan, also behaved in the same way. But Chaudri Rustum Ali Khan of Gohana took charge of the talisil buildings and preserved them with the records and money, and kept together some prisoners who were engaged on the new works there until the order was again restored in the autumn.

During the 1st war of Independence (1857), the tahsildar of Sonipat ordered the inhabitants to vacate the city. But the people defied his orders. Then an action took place and many persons were killed. Ultimately, the tahsildar Fazle-Hussain was hanged at Ganj Bazar of the old town of Sonipat by the rebels².

Not only these officials, but all the Europeans and "Loyal Officers" fled from the district. The rebels burnt the office and *Bunglows* of the British Officials. They destroyed the records, plundered the Mahajans and Banias and set the prisoners free from the jail.

1. C.T. Metcalf, *Minutes of the Board of Revenue*, Nov. 17, 1830.

1. Newspaper-*Aftase-Alam*, (Urdu), February, 2, 1859; this extract has been taken from the Diary of Bahadur Shah Jafar, Dt. August 21, 1857.

The Rohtak district being abandoned by all its officers, the old feuds and quarrels of the people, which till then had been long buried, at once broke out anew and all outwards signs of order and rule disappeared for a time. The officers with their wives and children became wanderers on the face of the country¹.

All the vestiges of the British Government disappeared like snow in thaw. The mutineers (rebels) killed Bhurekhan, the thanedar, and after trying unsuccessfully to plunder these areas went off to Delhi. "The Ranghars and butchers set up the Muhammadan green flag and around it all the revolutionaries of the area collected and the lawlessness ruled supreme here till the middle of September².

As already explained, Chaudri Rustum Ali alone maintained himself at Gohana tahsil headquarters, nowhere else was there any sign left of the authority of the late rulers of the country. The villagers of Kharkhoda were long in possession of a gun which they seized from Hisar rebels. The gun was taken away from them by the other rebels. The lawlessness continued for many days.

The whole of the district plunged into a flood of rebellion. The Rangars, Rajputs, Jats and even low caste people played a prominent role in the freedom movement of 1857. In the words of Kaye and Malleon: "There can be little doubt that the sympathy of the people, from noble to peasant, was enlisted on behalf of the representative of Moghuls". Even the *mafildars* of the British government, who enjoyed rent free tenures and several other privileges, stood against their master (The British).

By and by, all the areas came in the grip of lawlessness. The villages of Rohan, Bukeor, Karawari, Shah Partik, Rulowdh, Malik Sunderlal, Malik Kheri, Fazilpur, Kuberpur, Sullanpur and Pattee Musalmanari in the then Sonipat tahsil refused to pay land revenue and defied the British authority. The people of villages, namely; Kundli (of present Sonipat tahsil) and Shamri (of present Gohana tahsil) revolted against the British in the uprising of 1857. They attacked and murdered some Englishmen who passed through these villages.

The civil population rose in almost every big village. Commenting on the State of the affairs, Cap. Marcandew informed the Government of India, "I find the country.....considerably disorganized; the revenue and police officers are in the state of flight; many of the zamindars and big villages are quite refractory."

1. *Land Revenue Settlement Report of Rohtak District, 1878-79*, p. 37.

2. *Gazetteer of the Rohtak District, 1883-84*, p. 27.

As already mentioned, the Rangars rose *en masse* against the British. Their struggle was very intense for two reasons; first, a large number of Ranghar soldiers whose regiments had mutinied came and joined them. Secondly, they found good leaders like Bisarat Ali and Babar Khan. The former was a peasant from Kharkhoda. He had joined the army and was thus quite familiar with the principles of military organization and warfare¹.

The Ranghars led by Bisarat Ali freed the major portion of the area from the British control. But despite their best efforts, they could not free Rohtak entirely from the clutches of the British.

The British authorities took a very serious view of these incidents in Gohana area. Since the Grand Trunk Road passed through the district of Sonipat, the rebels could greatly impede the passage of men and material from Punjab to Delhi. It was, therefore, considered very essential from the military point of view that the district be recovered without any loss of time. Accordingly, Major General Wilson commanding the Delhi-Field force sent Lt. Hodson with a force comprising 6 European Officers, 103 men of the Guides, 233 of Hodson's Irregular Horse and 25 of the Jind Horse (361 in all) in the early hours of 15 August, 1857.

Hodson was checked at Kharkhoda on August 15, 1857. The villagers and especially the 'leave men' of the irregular corps who had taken position in one of the strong buildings belonging to a lambardar of the village opposed Hodson bravely. Under the inspiring leadership of Risaldar Bisarat Ali, the villagers fought gallantly. Even Hodson admitted: "They fought like devils". Because of their large numbers and superior fire power, the British soon overpowered the rebels. Risaldar Bisarat Ali fell fighting along with twenty-five of his men. The British also suffered a number of casualties on their side.

Hardly had Hodson finished this encounter when the intelligence reached him that a large number of rebels under a new peasant leader Sabar Khan were preparing their schemes. He at once left for Kharkhoda and after a short halt and respite in a village moved forwards to meet the challenge of the rebels.

In the early hours of July 17, 1857, Hodson was attacked by about 300 Ranghar horsemen belonging to different irregular cavalry regiments and a mass of foot men certainly not less than 900 or 1000 in number. A fierce fight took place. After sometime the rebels left the open field and retired in bushy hides.

As the situation warranted, the Indian force made a retreat. Hodson did not follow them. In the end, Hodson left for Delhi, leaving the towns of Kharkhoda, Sonipat and Gohana under the care and watch of the Raja of Jind and some local *chaudhris*.

1. K.C. Yadav, *the Revolt of 1857 in Haryana*, 1977, p. 61.

The authority of the government was not restored permanently until twelve days after the memorable 14th of September, 1857, when Delhi fell. After restoring the control and order in the area, the authorities paid their attention towards the rebels in the movement. Many rebels were shot and hanged; property stolen was as far as possible recovered; the area was actually disarmed throughout; the outstanding revenue was promptly collected, the villages which had been most prominent in the revolution were heavily fined; rewards were given to the loyal people and the lands of the guilty were confiscated.

As per a list found in the *File R/131*, there were many local *chaudhris* who extended all sorts of help to Lt. Hodson with money and material and later-on held their local places for the British. They were afterwards handsomely rewarded for these services. These loyal persons did not belong to one or two particular castes or communities, but to many.

As already explained, the people of two villages, namely, Kundli and Shamri murdered the English Officials while passing through the territory of Sonipat district. The British after the uprising, confiscated the lands of the villagers of the above villages as a measure of punishment.

GROWTH OF POLITICAL STRUGGLE

Due to anti-British activities of the people in the war of Independence of 1857, Gohana tahsil being a part of Rohtak district alongwith the south-east Punjab, roughly comprising Haryana, which had been a part of the North-western provinces, was tagged to the Punjab by the Government of India notification No. 606 of the 13th April, 1858. After the abolition of Hisar division in 1884, the Rohtak district was transferred to the Delhi division. Sonipat tahsil, which had remained attached to the Delhi district since the year 1861, was added to the Rohtak district in September, 1912.

No development programmes were started by the government. Hence these areas remained backward. The government used the martial spirit of the people by recruiting many young persons in the army. The ex-service men and others realised that their lot could be improved only through political awakening and by and by this feeling was shared by a large number of people.

The Arya Samaj movement accelerated the desire for reform. It laid great stress on starting educational institutions and removing untouchability. The programme, creating a new social consciousness, spread gradually from urban to rural areas.

Arya Samaj became suspect in the eyes of the British Government soon after it was formed in 1875. The government became hostile to the Arya Samaj on account of the following activities :—

1. Arya Samaj was a new movement, seeking to disturb the old order of things and affairs of social and religious importance.

2. The Arya Samaj not only vigorously defended the ancient Hindu religion but also decided to fight the aggressors with their own weapons.
3. Arya Samaj took up cudgels on behalf of the Hindus in every trouble arising out of the question of cow killing or conversion of Hindus to an alien faith. Government became anxious on account of the activities of Arya Samaj in these days.

Besides the *Gurukul* at Kangri, a number of *Gurukuls* were established in different parts of the country during the period (1875—1918). In Haryana there were *Gurukuls* at Bhainswal and Matinda (Sonipat district). All these institutions (*Gurukuls*) were being run on the Kangri lines and served the same purpose, namely; to build first-rate citizens imbued with immense 'patriotic fervid and national zeal'.

In these *Gurukuls* students received education at very nominal rates of tuition fees. In these institutions, besides their academic curriculum, the students were given lessons in patriotism, and service to their fellow countrymen. The importance of such virtues as *Swarajya*, self-help, dignity of labour, and individual and national self-respect was explained to them. As a result, there emerged a large number of young men with patriotic fervour and national zeal from the portals of these institutions. The *gurukuls* at Bhainswal and Matindu in Sonipat district were also following the life-pattern of Arya Samaj. They prepared their students for freedom struggle.

The teachers at *Gurukuls* in these days were well-known for academic excellence and patriotic feelings. Many of them had pledged their life to the institutions. Thus all the *gurukuls* played a very important role in the freedom struggle of the country by preparing their pupils for self-sacrifice for the country.

Ch. Chhotu Ram came on the scene and he served the interests of rural masses. He began to take a leading share in the welfare of Zamindars, judging in terms of the provisions of government of India Act, 1919, which gave a distinct political advantage to the rural areas by creating special constituencies of great landlords and giving a commanding majority of rural seats in the Provincial Council.

The Government introduced the bill on February 6, 1919 to give effect to the recommendations of Rowlatt Committee. Gandhi Ji urged the countrymen to resist this wicked legislation. He also called upon the people to observe

1. *Arya Samaj and the Freedom Movement* by K. C. Yadav & K. S. Arya, Volume—I, (1875—1918), 1983, P. 66.

fast and hartal on a fixed day all over the country. His call received a favourable response in Haryana. A *hartal* was observed at Sonipat on 6th April, 1919. As a result, postal telegraph lines at Gohana were damaged. A mass meeting was to be convened at Sonipat had been abandoned under the Government pressure. On account of these activities, this area (Sonipat) was declared as a disturbed area under the Police Act on April, 21, 1919. The publication of news in *Jat Gazette* pertaining to the disturbances was forbidden. The Tahsildars of Sonipat and Gohana who were found to be sympathetic to the Arya Samagist leaders were transferred.

On learning the news of massacre of Jallianwala Bagh on April, 13, 1919, the people rose against the British. Government property was damaged and the post office at Gohana was destroyed and telegraph lines were cut off. The Government strengthened the executive authorities with greater powers to suppress the disturbances with strong hand. The Seditious Meeting Act 1907 was introduced in the Gohana area. Aeroplane-demonstrations were carried out over Ganaur to cow down the people.

Muslims were also active in the Non-Co-operation Movement. Two religious divines, Maulvi Baqaullah and Sufi Iqbal were arrested in 1920 for delivering anti-British speeches at Sonipat mosque. They were sent to Rohtak jail. Muslim sentiment was against the British in many areas of Haryana.

In 1920, Gandhi Ji in alliance with Ali brothers, the khilafat leaders, launched an all India campaign of non-violent non-co-operation to bring the British administration to a standstill. In response to Gandhi's call to do away with government-sponsored institutions, Hindu High School, Sonipat disaffiliated itself from the University of Punjab. Abdul Aziz of Gohana was one of the prominent leaders of khilafat movement. Gandhi Ji and Maulana Abdul Kalam Azad addressed a large public meeting at Kalanaur (Rohtak district) after an attempt to hold khilafat meeting at Sonipat was thwarted.

To conduct non-co-operation movement successfully, the Congress committees were established at district and tahsil level. Pt. Shri Ram Sharma, staunch freedom-fighter, toured the Sonipat district and propagated in favour of the movement. The non-Cooperation movement had not made much headway but the Congress party tried to keep up the public morale by organising the public conferences. The government dampened the Spirits of the people by arresting their leaders.

Sonipat town was also agog with political activity due to its close proximity to Delhi. On January 2, 1921, a procession was arranged by Sonipat Congress Committee. The leaders spoke against *begar* and put some people of Sonipat to shame for helping the government officials. They instigated the people to observe hartal on the eve of the visit of Duke of Connaught to India.

On 13th May, 1921, a joint meeting of Hindus and Muslims was organised in which leather workers were specially invited. The leaders drew the attention of the people towards the Jallianwala Bagh atrocities. Another meeting was arranged at Sonipat on May, 18, 1921. At 8.00 P.M. a meeting was held at Anaj Mandi (Sonipat) where the leaders exhorted the lower classes not to offer *begar*. They also spoke against the loyalists who were helping in the running of British administration.

After that incident, Congress organizational work was started at Gohana. People resorted to wear *khaddar*. Many political meetings were held in Jain temple compound. A handsome amount was donated for the Tilak Swaraj Fund by many communities of Gohana area.

When the Khilafat movement was over, many Muslims left the Congress Party in despair. They stood against the Hindu leaders. The British tried their level best to inflame the feelings of anti-party among the Hindus and Muslims. The government favoured the Muslims with the view to dividing both communities and the Muslims were instigated against their Hindu brethren to a great extent. In 1923, the Deputy Commissioner, Rohtak, obstructed the 'Nagar Kirtan' procession of Arya Samaj at Kharkhoda. The Muslims also obstructed the Ram Lila procession at Kharkhoda. The situation became tense. Due to the efforts of the common leaders, communal harmony prevailed again.

At Sonipat, there was a bonfire of foreign cloth on 11th April and national week was celebrated on April, 15, 1929. The people went about daily in *Perbhat Pheris* early in the morning singing national and patriotic songs and poems.

In June, 1929, a *Jatha* of volunteers left Rohtak for Peshawar. The police arrested them near Karnal. Most of the active and youthful volunteers came from village *Pathsalas* in Gohana tahsil. The 'Mutiny Week' was celebrated and public meetings were held almost every day. The people attended these meetings in large number. Women also participated in these meetings.

The annual session of the Indian National Congress held in Lahore reached a momentous decision. It was resolved that the goal of India henceforth would not be dominion status but complete independence. The District committees, in pursuance of the resolution of the Congress, issued a circular to all their units with regard to the celebration of Independence day on January 26, 1930 by taking the following pledge¹:

"We pledge ourselves afresh to this great cause of India's freedom and to end the exploitation of our people and resolve to work to this end till success comes to our people. The British

1. Majundar, R.C., *History of the freedom movement in India*, Calcutta, 1963, Vol. -III, p. 331.

Government in India has not only deprived the Indian people of their freedom but has based itself on the exploitation of the masses and has ruined India economically, politically, culturally and spiritually. We believe, therefore, that India must sever its connection with the British and attain complete independence *poori Azadi*."

In almost, all the cities, towns and big villages 'Independence Day' was celebrated¹. At Sonipat a big procession was led by prominent Congress men, speeches delivered and pledge taken².

The Civil disobedience Movement was started on March 12, 1930. The Government tried to curb the movement by resorting to repressive measures. During the movement, national week was celebrated with great enthusiasm. Shops selling the foreign goods and liquor were picketed. Vigorous propaganda dissuaded large number of students from attending local educational institutions and many students gave up their studies.

A Rural Conference was held at village Nahri³. Some shops selling foreign cloth were picketed on April 12, 1931 but the picketeers were beaten up mercilessly on the next day. Jatha (group of protesters) of women under the patronage of Smt. Kasturi Bai of Rohtak went to Sonipat and organised a hunger strike and staged dharnas before those shops. A meeting of cloth merchants was called on July 14, 1931 and they were persuaded to boycott the foreign cloth. They agreed to the proposal. All the bales of the cloth were stamped with Congress Committee Sonipat. On 15th July, the sale of all foreign cloth was stopped. Sonipat city was on the forefront in boycotting the foreign cloth and other things.

The Government of India considered that the Congress by launching the Civil Disobedience Movement wanted to embarrass the authorities in their efforts to achieve victory in the war. So it resorted to repressive measures to crush it. The Government passed an Emergency Power Ordinance which gave very wide powers to the Government and their officers. Believing that the purpose of Civil Disobedience Movement was to create a public opinion hostile to the rulers by giving publicity in the press, the Government of India banned publication of any information in the newspapers regarding the movement which had not been approved by the press authorities in New Delhi. The Deputy Commissioners were asked to keep a watch over the newspapers

1. Sharma, Shri Ram, *Haryana Ka Itihas*, 1929.

2. J.N. Singh Yadav, *Haryana (Studies in History and Politics)* 1976, p. 111.

3. *Civil Disobedience Movement in the Punjab (1930—34)* by D.R. Grover, 1987, p. 167.

in their respective districts and to make use of the different agencies at their disposal particularly with a view to correcting or contradicting of false rumours set afloat by the freedom fighters.

Keeping in view these instructions, publication of *Haryana Tilak*, an Urdu weekly of Rohtak (brought out by Shri Ram Sharma) which then was the chief spokesman of people in Sonipat and Rohtak areas was stopped. This paper was widely read in the Haryana prant.

On receipt of the directions, Deputy Commissioner, Rohtak asked the other newspapers to follow instructions. *The Chaministan* (Kharkhoda); *The Dehat Sudhar* (Rohtak), *The Jat Gazette* (Rohtak), *The Muslim Gazette* (Rohtak), etc. were ordered to comply with the instructions.

After the suspension of the Civil Disobedience Movement, the Congress decided to participate in the elections to the legislatures and local bodies which were held after the passing of the Government of India Act, 1935.

In the then Punjab, the Unionist Party after winning majority in the General Election held in 1937 came to power. Sir Sikandar Hayat Khan became the premier. In 1937, from Haryana Prant the party won 16 out of 29 seats whereas the Congress secured only 4 seats. Ch. Chhotu Ram and Tikka Ram, prominent unionists from this area, were included in Sikander Hayat Khan's Cabinet. In rural areas especially among the *Zamindars* and the farming communities of this region, the Unionist Party was more popular.

The Government showed confidence in its relations with the landlords. They (landlords), according to the government estimate, were loyal and "would stand by the Empire against barbarity. Early in July, 1938, Sir Sikander Hayat Khan came to Sonipat. In a large gathering of about 30,000 peasants, he appealed to them to join army and defend India against foreign invasion¹.

Between November 7, 1940 and November 15, 1940, Mian Iftikar Uddin toured some districts of Haryana extensively to create enthusiasm for the coming session of the Indian National Congress and to prepare Congress men to meet the prevailing political crisis. On November 15, 1940, he went to Karnal and later to Sonipat. The Tribune reported that after the meeting at Sonipat Mian Sahib proceeded towards Rohtak.

According to the records of the Deputy Commissioner, Rohtak, the number of *Satyagrahi* prisoners convicted in the Rohtak district (of which the present Sonipat district was apart) from May, 1941 to September, 1941 for symbolic breaches of the Defence of India Rules, was 73. It is not possible to list them individually here. However, the lists reveal that the prisoners

1. *The National Front*, July 3, 1938.

belonged to various castes such as Brahman, Jat, Jhiwar, Harijan, Rajput, Bania, etc. and hailed from both urban and rural areas.

The arrest of Gandhi Ji in August, 1942, was followed by hartals and processions in nearly the whole of the district. The repressive measures of the Government provoked arson and violence at many places. Telephone wires were cut, fish-plates were removed from railway lines and letter boxes were burnt by the reactionary elements in the Quit India Movement.

The arrest of the leaders during Quit India Movement led to spontaneous hartals, demonstrations and strikes at Sonipat and Murthal. At Sonipat the leaders appealed to the students to go on strike. Amar Nath of Sonipat who was connected with sabotage in Sonipat tahsil was arrested on October 27, 1942 for writing and sending threatening letters to the officers.

The popular slogan of the movement, *Karenge Ya Marenge* (Do or die) enthused the people of the area. The main targets of attack were means of communications. To keep up the momentum of the movement, efforts were made to arouse enthusiasm in the public by widespread distribution of pamphlets and posters.

When the intensity of the Quit India Movement showed signs of abatement towards the end of 1943, many political detainees were released from prisons. However, before their release, they were served with restriction orders, i.e. they could not leave the municipal limits of particular towns and villages without the permission of the district authorities. The restrictions adversely affected many internees and restrictees, especially the pleaders and doctors, whose source of livelihood was their professional practice. Due to these restrictions, the lawyers could not attend the courts of the neighbouring cities and towns. Their professional practice received a set-back. As a result, a doctor from Murthal and a pleader from Sonipat suffered financially very much.

Besides many individual Satyagrahi, a sizeable number of people courted arrest. Rati Ram belonging to chamar caste of Bonar village (Rohtak district) worked for the freedom of the country in Sonipat and Rohtak areas. He died as martyr in the Borstal Jail, Lahore in 1942, where he was undergoing imprisonment on account of the anti-British activities. Pt. Devi Singh of Sonipat who was the driver of Neta Ji Subhash Chander Bose, is known as Swantrata Sainani in the history of India. Chaudhry Tika Ram, close associate of Sir Chhotu Ram, belonging to Jat Community was an important figure in the National

1. Chopra, P.N. Chief Editor, All India Gazetteer, *Who's who of Indian Martyrs*, Vol.-I, p. 302.

Movement. Due to his utmost and inspiring work in the sphere of education, he is still known as Mahatma Hansraj in the Sonipat district.

Some singers and *bhajnis* played a very important role in the freedom struggle of the country. A typical *bhajan*¹ was sung by the *bhajanis* in the pre-Independence days in the rural areas.

India achieved independence on August 15, 1947. One of the most significant changes has been the formation of Haryana as a separate State on November 1, 1966. The present Sonipat District comprising the tahsils of Gohana and Sonipat was created in 1972².

- (1) *Madre Hind ki tasvir sene Pe bani,
Beria peron me hon aur gale me kafni,
Aaj se dekhenge vafa ka yahi johar hoga,
Faras katon ka hame fuloon ka bestorhoga,
Ful ho jahega chhati pe jo patar hoga,
Kedkhana Kahte han vahi ghar hoga,
Santari dekhhar Aus jos ko sarmatenge,
Geet janjir ki jhankar par ham gayenga,
Dil tarfata he ki savraj ka palgam mile,
Kal mile Aaj mile, subah mile, sham mile,
Hukam hakim ka hai faryade jawani ruk jaya,
Par yah mumkin mahin, yah joshe jawani ruk jaya,
Hon Khabardar jinhone yath ajimat di,
Kuchh tamasha nahiyeh, kom ne karvat li hai.*

- (2) *Vide*, Haryana Government, Revenue Department Notification No. 6050-E (IV)-72/45723, dated December 22, 1972.

CHAPTER III

PEOPLE

The population of the district, as per 1981 Census, was 8,46,765 (4,53,873 males and 3,92,892 females¹). On the basis of the 1971 Census, its population was 6,86,986. In the decade (1971—81) there was an increase of (1,59,779 persons) 23.26 per cent. The district ranks eleventh among the 12 districts of the State in respect of the population according to 1981 Census.

Due to considerable territorial changes, the comparative population figures before 1971 are not available. However, decadal (1971—1981) variation in population of two tahsils (Gohana and Sonipat) is given below² :—

Tahsil	Census year	Population (Total)	Rural	Urban	Percentage decadal (1971—81) Variation		
					Total	Rural	Urban
Gohana	(1971)	2,31,946	2,15,192	16,754	16.12	12.99	56.31
Gohana	(1981)	2,69,339	2,43,151	26,188			
Sonipat	(1971)	4,55,040	3,84,248	70,792	26.90	17.52	77.59
Sonipat	(1981)	5,77,426	4,51,568	1,25,858			

The variation is more pronounced in urban areas than in rural areas. In Sonipat tahsil, the percentage of decadal variation in respect of towns is the highest (77.59) which seems to be due to steep rise in the population of Sonipat town.

The population of Gohana tahsil, as per Census 1981, was 2,69,339 (1,43,066 males and 1,26,273 females) while the total number of persons in Sonipat tahsil during the same Census period was 5,77,426 (3,10,807 males and 2,66,619 females). The total number of ruralites in Gohana tahsil was 2,43,151 (1,29,073 males and 1,14,078 females) ; Sonipat tahsil had 4,51,568 rural persons (2,42,639 males and 2,08,929 females). The urbanites of Gohana tahsil recorded in the 1981 Census were 26,188 (13,993 males and 12,195 females) ; while there were 1,25,858 urbanites (68,168 males and 57,690 females) in the Sonipat tahsil³.

1. The population figures are based on *the Statistical Abstract of Haryana*, 1983-84. However two villages-chulkana (7,574 persons and Cihadya Yusafpur 546 persons) were transferred to Panipat tahsil of Karnal district on 30-12-1982.
2. Though the district had 2 tahsils (Gohana and Sonipat) during the time of Census 1981, tahsil Ganaur and sub-tahsil-Kharkhoda were formed after Census period. Hence, the population figures for Gohana and Sonipat tahsils are available only.
3. The analysis is based on the population recorded in the 1981 Census. The population of Ganaur tahsil and Kharkhoda sub-tahsil has been adjusted in the above analysis.

The Sonipat district as constituted at present had 3,35,521 persons (178,332 males and 1,57,189 females) in 1901. During the span of eighty years (1901—81), the population increased by 152.4 per cent. The population variation since 1901 is as follows :—

Year	Persons	Decade variation	Percentage decade variation	Males	Females
1901	3,35,521	..	..	1,78,332	1,57,189
1911	2,89,440	—46,081	—13.73	1,55,913	1,33,527
1921	3,12,032	+22,592	+7.81	1,68,474	1,43,558
1931	3,26,002	+13,970	+4.48	1,74,915	1,51,087
1941	3,85,909	+59,907	+8.38	2,01,491	1,84,418
1951	4,38,682	+52,773	+13.67	2,32,691	2,05,991
1961	5,54,271	+1,15,589	+26.35	2,94,262	2,60,009
1971	6,86,986	+1,32,715	+23.94	3,68,449	3,18,537
1981	8,46,765	+1,59,779	+23.26	4,53,873	3,92,892

The population during the decade (1901—1911), decreased by 13.73 per cent. In the next decade the population increased by 22,592 persons from 289,440 to 312,032. The population rose enormously during the period of 20 years (1961—1981). The general factors which influence the trend of population growth are : severe attack of malaria and plague during 1901—11, mass migration of people in the wake of Partition during 1941—51 ; and health measures adopted by the Government. The Sonipat district because of the proximity to Delhi had a good scope for gainful employment, attracted a large number of refugees. Besides, there is general trend of population rise in the country.

The population variation since 1901 in three towns (Sonipat, Gohana and Ganaur) is shown below :

Town and Census year	Persons	Decade variation	Percentage decade variation	Males	Females
Sonipat :					
1901	12,990	..	..	6,389	6,601
1911	12,014	—976	—7.51	6,192	5,822
1921	12,981	+967	+8.05	7,002	5,979
1931	15,050	+2,069	+15.94	8,274	6,776
1941	17,781	+2,731	+18.15	9,641	8,140

1	2	3	4	5	6	
1951	..	30,189	+12,408	+69.78	16,072	14,117
1961	..	45,882	+15,693	+51.98	25,149	20,763
1971	..	62,393	+16,511	+35.99	33,750	28,643
1981	..	1,09,369	+46,976	+75.29	59,300	50,069
Gohana :						
1901	..	6,567	..	..	3,257	3,310
1911	..	5,438	-1,129	-17.19	2,752	2,686
1921	..	5,107	-331	-6.09	2,665	2,442
1931	..	5,045	-62	-1.21	2,699	2,346
1941	..	6,818	+1,773	+35.14	3,792	3,076
1951	..	8,796	+1,978	+29.01	4,754	4,042
1961	..	11,076	+2,280	+25.92	5,859	5,217
1971	..	16,754	+5,678	+51.26	8,923	7,831
1981	..	26,188	+9,434	+56.31	13,993	12,195
Ganaur¹ :						
1971	..	8,399	..	..	4,542	3,857
1981	..	16,489	+8,090	+96.32	8,868	7,621

During the decade (1901—11), there was a great ravage of disease and drought which took a toll of the population by death. Consequently, the population of major towns (Sonipat and Gohana) decreased. An increase in population of Sonipat town during two decades (1921—41) was nominal. During the post-Independence period (1951—1981), there was a steep rise in population. This may be attributed to the health measures adopted by the Government. Due to the health schemes, death rate was reduced in whole of the country. In the case of Gohana town population decreased by 17.19 per cent during 1901—11, 6.09 per cent during 1911—21 and 1.21 per cent during the decade (1921—31). There was a continuous rise in the percentage of population since 1941 to 1981. Ganaur town recorded an increase of population of 96.32 per cent during the period (1971—81). In Gohana, Sonipat and Ganaur, the percentage increase in population during the decade (1971—81) was 56.31, 75.29 and 96.32 respectively. This shows that a desire for living in a city or a town

1. Ganaur was included in the list of towns at the time of 1971 Census.

is being developed in the society. Many people do not find such facilities in the villages. It has been observed that a large number of persons shift from villages to towns for studies and livelihood. The major increase in rural and urban population may be due to more lands having been brought under cultivation and of greater medical facilities and hygienic conditions brought about by the development programmes under the Five-Year Plans.

Distribution of Population

As per 1981 Census, the district had 335 inhabited and 13 uninhabited villages. Total rural population of the district was 6,94,719 (3,71,712 males and 3,23,007 females). The villages¹ classified by population are given below:—

Range of population	No. of villages in each range	Percentage of villages in each range
—200	9	2.72
200—499	24	7.25
500—1,999	158	47.73
2,000—4,999	122	36.86
5,000—9,999	18	5.44
10,000 +	..	..
Total	331	100.00

The above table shows that 47.73 per cent of the villages in the district are medium sized having population in the range 500—1,999 whereas 36.86 per cent of the villages fall in the population range of 2,000—4,999. Only 18 villages or 5.44 per cent come in the range of 5,000—9,999.

There were 18 villages (8 of Gohana tahsil and 10 of Sonipat tahsil) with a population of 5,000 and above. The details are as follows :—

District	Tahsil	Villages with a population of 5,000 and above		
		Number	Population	Percentage of total rural population of the State
Sonipat	..	18	1,17,538	1.16
	Gohana	8	48,995	0.48
	Sonipat	10	68,543	0.68

¹The number of villages shown in the 1981 Census is 348 (331 inhabited and 13 uninhabited). Four villages [Kalupur, Jamalpur Khurd, Garhi and Ganaur (rural)] have been partly merged in the towns.

Distribution of villages by density.—In 45.02 per cent villages the density of population per square kilometre falls in the range 301—500 whereas in 27.49 per cent of the villages, it falls in the range 201—300. In 14.20 per cent of villages the density is above 500. The distribution of villages by density is shown in the table below :—

Range of density (per sq. kilometre)	Total number of villages in each density range	Percentage of villages in each density range
—10	2	0.60
11—20	2	0.60
21—50	4	1.21
51—100	8	2.42
101—200	28	8.46
201—300	91	27.49
301—500	149	45.02
501 +	47	14.20
Total :	331	100.00

Density of Population.—As per 1981 Census, density of population in the district was 384 persons per square kilometre. According to 1981 Census, the density of population for Haryana State as a whole was 292 persons per square kilometre. Among the districts, the density of population was 466 in Faridabad, 384 in Sonipat, 368 in Ambala, 356 in Karnal, 349 in Rohtak, 319 in Mahendragarh, 313 in Gurgaon, 302 in Kurukshetra, 284 in Jind, 237 in Hisar, 180 in Bhiwani and 165 in Sirsa. In the rural areas of the State, the density was 232 persons per square kilometre whereas in urban areas it was 3,702 persons per square kilometre as per the 1981 Census. Among the districts, highest density in rural areas was found in Sonipat (320) and lowest in Sirsa (133). In urban areas the highest density among the districts was recorded in Rohtak (5,452) and the lowest in Faridabad (2,163). Density of population in urban areas of Sonipat district was 4,109 per kilometre. Density of Sonipat tahsil (446 persons per km.) is higher than that of Gohana tahsil (299). Sonipat is in the close proximity of Delhi, hence there is more concentration of population.

Household.—The number of occupied residential houses in the district according to 1981 Census was 1,29,992 (1,03,585 in the rural areas and 26,407 in the urban areas. Persons per occupied Census house were 7 (Rural 7 and

urban 6). Institutional and houseless population was 6,258. The total number of households was 1,31,937 (1,04,719 in rural areas and 27,218 in urban areas¹. The number of persons per household was 6 ; in rural areas 7 and in urban areas 6.

The break-up of houseless and institutional population of the district has been detailed in the following table :

Houseless population

	No. of households	Persons	Males	Females
<i>Total</i>	404	1,568	972	596
<i>Rural</i> ..	341	1,265	794	471
<i>Urban</i> ..	63	303	178	125

Institutional Population

	No. of households	Persons	Males	Females
<i>Total</i> ..	239	4,690	3,285	1,405
<i>Rural</i> ..	166	2,544	1,662	882
<i>Urban</i> ..	73	2,146	1,623	523

There were 304 houseless persons² in Gohana tahsil as compared to Sonipat tahsil (1,264 houseless persons). The institutional population in Gohana tahsil consisted of 1717 (767 males and 950 females) whereas in Sonipat tahsil, there were 2,973 institutional persons (2,518 males and 455 females).

Sex Ratio.—According to 1981 Census, the sex-ratio for the district as a whole was 866. For rural areas, it was 869 and for urban areas, it was 851. The changes in the sex-ratio (females per 1,000 males) during the decades 1901—1981 have been shown below :—

Year	Rural	Urban	Total
1901	.. 873	1,027	881
1911	.. 851	951	856
1921	.. 851	871	852
1931	.. 866	831	864
1941	.. 921	931	915
1951	.. 887	872	885
1961	.. 889	839	884
1971	.. 866	854	865
1981	.. 869	851	866

1. *Statistical Abstract of Haryana, 1983-84*, p. 54.

2. Census of India series-6, Haryana, General population Tables and Primary Census Abstract 1981, page 48.

As already stated that sex-ratio of the district was 866 against 870 of the State as a whole. The sex-ratio in rural areas was 869 which was relatively high in comparison to urban areas (851). It rejects male selective migration to urban areas, low sex ratio at birth and higher rate of mortality among the females. The sex ratio (915) was recorded during the decade from 1931—41.

Population of Scheduled Castes.—As per 1981 Census, the total population of Scheduled Castes in the district was 1,42,172 (76,458 males and 65,714 females). The district ranked eighth in the percentage of Scheduled Castes population which accounted for 16.79 per cent of the total population in the district as against the corresponding figure of 19.07 for the state. In the rural areas, the district had 17.95 per cent of population of Scheduled Castes to the total rural population.

In 29.91 per cent of villages, percentage of Scheduled Castes population to total population is above 20 per cent. In 2.72 per cent of villages there is no Scheduled Castes population at all.

In the towns the Scheduled Castes population constituted 11.50 per cent of the urban total population in the district.

The proportion of Scheduled Castes population to total population in each town is as follows:—

Name of the town	Total population (including institutional and houseless population)	Total Scheduled Castes population	Percentage of Scheduled castes population to total population
Ganaur ..	16,489	1,902	11.53
Gohana ..	26,188	3,495	13.35
Sonipat ..	1,09,369	12,092	11.06
All towns ..	1,52,046	17,489	11.50

Displaced persons.—As a result of the partition of the country in 1947, many Muslim families migrated to Pakistan and 61,585 persons mainly Hindus from Jhang, Multan, Muzafargarh, Lyallpur and other parts of Pakistan migrated to India and settled in the district. The Government extended various facilities to rehabilitate them by giving financial and other facilities which included technical and vocational training, special priorities in recruitment to public services and loans to settle down in petty business or trade.

The detailed account about their rehabilitation may be seen under the caption of 'Rehabilitation' at the end of this chapter.

Literacy.—The literacy rates are 40.85 per cent for the district as a whole; 36.76 per cent for rural areas and 59.54 per cent for urban areas. The literacy rate is 54.28 per cent for males as against 25.34 per cent for females. In rural areas, the literacy rate is 51.25 per cent for males and 20.09 per cent for females. In urban areas, the literacy rate is 67.97 per cent and 49.63 per cent for males and females, respectively. As shown above, the literacy rates are higher among the males and females in urban areas.

The literacy rates for the towns in the district are as follows:-

Name of the town	Literacy rate (per cent)
Ganaur	58.89
Gohana	53.07
Sonipat	61.19
All Towns	59.54

The table above indicates that Sonipat town has a literacy rate higher than the district literacy rate. Gohana town has the lowest literacy rate.

By 1981, 543 males and 253 females per thousand population were classified as literates. The comparative low literacy among females is associated with the conservative outlook of the people as well as their social and economic backwardness.

LANGUAGE

Sonipat district is a Hindi speaking area. It falls in the region of Bangru dialect. Bangru represents the western group of dialects of Hindi. Its phonology and grammar are similar to a great extent to that of standard Hindi but dissimilarities are also conspicuous. Standard Hindi dental *n* and *i* are changed (though not always) to cerebral *ṇ* and *ī*, i.e. 'Ja'na' for *Ja'na* to mean 'to go' and Sa'la for *sala* to mean brother-in-law. In Bangru there is no short vowel in the final position of words, i.e. *sa'dhu* or *sadh* to mean saint and 'Kavi' for *Ka'vi* to mean poet. Consonant clusters are rarely used in this dialect, i.e. *d'haran* for *dharaṇ* to mean religion. A few other peculiarities of the Bangru dialect are : *sai* for *hai* to mean 'is', *karda* for *karta* to mean doing and *kad* for *kab* to mean 'when'.

The other specimens are as follows :—

Eh bhart mata bhala kariyo rizak dijiyi.

“mother earth, be good-give us our daily bread”.

Eh mere parmashwar, khairsalah rakhiyo bhala kariyo.

“God keep me safe and do well by me”.

The displaced persons who settled in this district speak Panjabi. Both the locals and displaced persons have adopted many words from one another's language in urban areas. In the rural areas, the people speak pure or *theth* ‘Haryanvi’.

After the migration of Muslims in 1947, the use of Urdu is now limited to the older generation. The various scripts used are : Devnagari for Hindi, Gurmukhi for Panjabi, Persian for Urdu, Roman for English and lande.

RELIGIOUS LIFE

By 1981, Hindus constituted the bulk of population while Muslims, Sikhs, Jains, Christians and Buddhists were in minorities. Muslims are found in the villages of Sonipat tahsil. The religion-wise break-up of population (rural only) as per 1961 *Census of Rohtak District* is shown below :—

Religion	Gohana tahsil		Sonipat tahsil	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
Hindus	1,40,947	1,25,564	1,44,602	1,27,604
Muslims	527	431	2,587	2,176
Jains	456	441	473	629
Sikhs	245	151	210	138
Buddhists	218	183	..	..
Christians	..	..	10	13
Religion not stated	19	..	2	..

The population figures show that the Hindus in 1961 were in majority in both the tahsils. The Muslims were in large number in Sonipat tahsil whereas the Sikhs were found in Sonipat and Gohana tahsils. The Buddhists were in Gohana tahsil and the Christians were found only in urban areas of Sonipat tahsil. Christianity was introduced in the district about a century ago under the patronage of the British. By the beginning of 20th century, there were churches at Sonipat and Kharkhoda in the district. The Methodists Church of Southern Asia is running a school at Sonipat and a clinic at Ganaur,

Townwise population by religion as per 1971 Census is given below :—

Town		Religion							
		Hindu		Jain		Muslim		Sikh	
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Ganaur	..	4,148	3,497	330	309	11	9	53	42
Gohana	..	8,398	7,366	344	325	32	25	148	115
Sonipat	..	31,738	26,950	870	786	419	310	565	518

In 1971, there were 40 Buddhists (15 Males and 25 females) and 195 Christians (142 males and 53 females) in Sonipat town.

The following statement shows the percentage of major religions to total population in 1981 :—

Religion	Percentage to total population 1981
Hindus	97.60
Sikhs	0.37
Muslims	1.46
Christians	0.03
Buddhists	Nil
Jains	0.54

RELIGIOUS BELIEFS AND PRACTICES

HINDUS

Hinduism is practised and followed by Hindus only. It is a collection of diverse beliefs and practices. Hindus worship gods in its various aspects, the chief being Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva. Principle of pantheism during the worship is followed by the Hindus. Lord Ram and Lord Krishna are incarnations of Vishnu. Hanuman is also worshipped by all sections of Hindus. Spirits of streams, trees and other minor deities are also objects of worship. It has been observed that Hindus follow traditional Hindu beliefs and are

generally orthodox in their religious practices. People go to temples either daily or on special occasions. Some people install images and idols of their chosen deity in their homes and shops and perform the ritual of daily worship in the morning and evening. The other deities revered by the people are : the Sun, the Yamuna, Bhumia, Khwaja Khizr, Small pox sisters, Gugga and Sayyads.

The religious practices of the Hindus all over Haryana are almost identical. The varieties, if at all, are due to peculiar customs of each caste and family. On the occasion of *greh pravesh*, child birth, marriage, etc., the *priest* is invited for performing ritual worship.

The practice of observing *shraddhas* in commemoration of the dead ancestors is also common. These are performed for 15 days before the beginning of *Nauratras*. During these days, professional Brahmins are invited by a few families and are offered delicious food either on the important *tithi* (date) or the last day of the *shradhas*, i.e. *Amavasia*. Some portion of the delicious food is offered to cows and birds. The members of the family take meals after the traditional performance of *shraddhas*.

The popular deities and the way of worship by the people are as follows :—

Shiva.—The worship of Lord Shiva is very popular in the urban areas than rural areas. People visit Shivalya generally on Mondays and worship the deity by pouring milk and water on the Shiva *linga* enshrined in it. The important Shiva temples are at Sonipat, Gohana, Ganaur, Kundal, Kamaspur and Barwasni. Shiva temple at village Kundal deserves special mention. It is said that an idol was discovered and when all attempts to dig it out had failed, a temple was constructed over it and the idol began to be worshipped as Shiva. The followers of lord Shiva generally have fast on Mondays.

Rama.—Lord Rama is worshipped by the Hindus as the incarnation of lord Vishnu. Every temple has the idols of Rama, Lakshmana and Sita which are known as Thakurdvaras. Rama is specially worshipped on the occasion of the Dusshera when Ramlila is staged in various parts of the district.

Hanuman.—Hanuman, generally known as monkey-god, is also the object of special veneration. He is worshipped by the Hindus and other sections of the society all over India. There is a custom of constructing of Hanuman temple before digging a well to avert an accident, as Hanuman is considered god of strength. Any difficult work started after saying 'Jai Bajrang-Bali'. The deity is worshipped on Tuesday. The followers offer sweetmeats as *prashad* to the images of Hanuman installed in the temples on Tuesdays. They observe fast on that day to appease the deity. At Chulkana village, a big temple is situated and a big statue of Hanuman stands installed in the precincts of the temple.

Krishana.—Lord Krishana is also worshipped throughout the district by all Hindus as the incarnation of Bhagwan Vishnu. The name of Krishana is very dear to every Hindu of the district as elsewhere in the country and temples dedicated to Him are found at Sonipat, Gohana, Kharkhoda and Ganaur.

Minor deities.—Many malevolent deities are worshipped by women and children. Some Muslim Pirs are also revered by all sections of society. It is felt if they are not propitiated, they may be troublesome.

The local gods and saints worshipped by the people since time immemorial have lost much of their former importance though they have not disappeared altogether. For example, mention may be made of a Ghahibi Pir (hidden Pir) who is also known as Bala Sayyad. People visit his shrine, built squarely in the form of a tomb on the top of Behrampur hill, on every Sunday. In fact there is no hill. It is only a small raised place situated near Garhi Rajlu, about 2 kilometres from Sandhal Kalan.

Masses in rural areas in particular worship Sitala Mata (goddess of smallpox) or Devi. Mata is usually worshipped on Tuesday in the month of Chaitra. Kandi Mata is worshipped on the second day after the recovery from an attack of smallpox. Masani is also worshipped and propitiated in the hope that children may not be inflicted with a *masan*, a disease of emaciation or atrophy.

Bhumia or the god of the homestead.—Bhumia is often called *khera* which is worshipped on Sunday. People light up an earthen lamp and offer a cake of bread at the shrine. Brahmans (Professional) are also served with delicious food. The *Khera* is often worshipped on marriage occasions. The bridegroom before proceeding to the bride's house takes a round of the deity. There are certain other occasions on which women worship the Bhumia.

Khawaja Khizr.—The worship of the local god of water, though the name is Muslim, is prevalent more in *khadar* areas. Twice a year after the harvest, he is worshipped at the well, diyas are lighted and Brahman and faquirs are offered food.

The Yamuna.—The people refer to the river Yamuna as *Jamna Ji*. There are no shrines to the Yamuna but people go and bathe in the river on several occasions. Two important fairs are held at village Bega and Bakhtawarpur. People take a dip in the Yamuna river on Kartik *Puranmashi*. It is also believed that a dip in the Yamuna river on Sundays at the time of waxing moon purges from all sins.

Guru Ravidas.—Harijans, particularly Chamars, worship Guru Ravidas who preached against the caste-system. The birth anniversary of the Guru is celebrated on the *purnima* of *Magh*. On the occasion, tableaux from the life

of Ravidas are taken out in procession to the accompaniment of *bhajan mandlis* singing devotional songs.

Rishi Balmiki.—The Harijans, particularly Balmiki community, revere Maharishi. His birth anniversary is celebrated with enthusiasm in the month of October. The devotional songs are also sung on this occasion.

SIKHS

The Sikhs believe in the teachings of ten Gurus and the *Granth Sahib*. They attach great importance to the recitation of the *Granth Sahib* and visit *gurdwaras*. Besides observing some Hindu festivals, they celebrate *gurparbs* (birth days and martyrdom days of Sikh Gurus) and Baisakhi. They organise *akhand* path on the special occasion of birth, marriage and death. Important *gurdwaras* are at Sonipat and Gohana.

MUSLIMS

The Muslims believe in one God (Prophet Mohammad) and their religion enjoins five duties upon them. They observe *namaz* five times in a day, preferably in a mosque. During the performance of *namaz*, they cover their heads with caps. Recitation of *Kalma* and *roza* is also done by the Muslims.

A tomb at Rajlu Garhi, maqbra of a Pegamber, at Nathupura, and tomb of Sayyad at Kharkhoda are important monuments where the Muslims visit on special occasions or on the day of Id.

JAINS

The members of Jain community worship Lord Mahavira and the Tirthankras. They celebrate Mahavir Jayanti and the birth anniversary of Lord Mahavira.

CHRISTIANS

The Christians consider the Bible as their holy book. They observe Easter, Good Friday, Christmas and New Year's Day. There is a Church at Sonipat.

SUPERSTITIONS

Despite the teachings of Arya Samaj, the masses generally cling to many traditional superstitions in the ordinary acts of daily life. Some of the commonly practised superstitions are given below:—

If a black cat crosses one's path, it is treated as a bad omen. If someone sneezes at the beginning of a job or at the time of going out, it is taken as sign of failure. Similarly, a woman with an empty pitcher, coming from an opposite direction and crossing one's path, is considered inauspicious. If the pot

or a pitcher is full of water, it is regarded a lucky sign. The people of all the communities believe in fate and luck. The astrologer is invariably consulted on every important occasion.

A clear picture about superstitions is given below:

“The people are not very superstitious as a rule, and it is not easy to say how far they really believe what they profess to, except when it suits their convenience. Certain lucky and unlucky days and omen are noted for the commencement of sowings and reaping ; no one must start for a journey or sell cattle on Wednesday, and buffaloes must not change hands on Saturday. when a human being is ill, a rupee and four annas are wrapped in a cloth with some rice and placed in a corner of the room in the name of some deceased relation of the sick man; on his recovery, this is given to some Brahman, and on the same day the dogs and holymen of the village are fed, and perhaps some excavation is done on a tank when disease attacks animals, the best course is believed to have charms read over them, and to suspend others across the entrance of the village. The people often call their sons by mean names, such as *Molar* (bought), *Mangtu* (borrowed), and the like, to deprecate the wrath and envy of gods. Ghosts are feared at the burning grounds (*chahani*), though not elsewhere apparently; but they are firmly believed to possess people sometimes, and ravings of these sufferers are carefully noted. The cure for affliction is said to be the application of red pepper¹”.

A few of the above quoted superstitions prevailing during 1878-79 have been liberalised, but the others have a grip over the people even today.

FESTIVALS AND FAIRS

Festivals are an important feature in the life of the people. These provide a change in their routine life and are sources of joy and gaiety to all. The common festivals observed by the Hindus are Holi, Diwali, Janmasthami, Dussehra, Teej, Karva Chauth, Basant Panchami, Shivratri, Bhai-duj, Ram-naumi, etc.

1. Report (on the revised) *Land Revenue Settlement of the Rohtak District, 1878-79*, pp.66-67

Teej, which falls in *Sawan* (July-August) is mainly the festival of women. Swings are hung on the trees the previous day. On the day of festival, women and children attired in their best clothes, proceed to the swings. Along with the swinging, they sing songs of *Teej* and return late in the evening to eat the festive meals prepared earlier in the day.

The other important festival of *Karva Chauth* falls in the month of *Kartik* (October-November) and is observed by married women only. They keep fast on the day in order that their husbands may live long. The puja is performed by the women sitting together in the afternoon, the fast is, however, broken after looking at and offering water to the moon at night.

On the occasion of *Janmasthmi*, People take out Lord Krishna's image in *dalass* and decorated palanquins in a festival locally called *Jal Jholni*. A *Jal Jholni mela* is held at Gohana in the month of *Bhadon*, when the idol of Krishana is taken out in procession and is immersed in the water in the evening.

Janmashtmi is celebrated at Sonipat with religious fervour. Special *Poojas* in the temples, distribution of *Prashad* and sweets and colourful procession re-enacting the life of Lord Krishana are the highlights of usual celebrations.

Devotees in large number throng the specially decorated temples at Sonipat. Many temples, including the Lord Rama temple, *Gita Bhavan* (city), *Shri Ram Mandir* in Kot Mohalla and *Mandir Radhey Shyam* in Kalan Mohalla attract thousand devotees throughout the day, where special discourses and lectures on the *Gita* and Lord Krishna's life are organised.

The burning of effigies of *Ravana* at the end of *Dussehra* is not customary in rural areas; the village girls observe *Sanjhi* for a period of 10 days. They move out at night with earthen pots on their heads. These pots have holes all around and are lighted with *diyas* (earthen lamps) placed in them. It presents a lovely sight. The boys try to break the earthen pots which the girls protect. On the *Dussehra* evening these earthen pots with lighted *diyas* inside are floated in ponds. The lighted *diya* symbolises *Sita* (Purity) while the boys represent *Rakshasas* (evil powers) from whose custody *Sita* is released. On this occasion while the Brahmins offer tender barley shoots to their patrons, the sisters do the same to their brothers and both receive monetary gifts in return.

Gugga Naumi is religious festival connected with snake worship observed on *Bhadon 9* (August-September). A number of legends have clustered around *Gugga* who is also called *Gugga Pir* or *Zahir Pir*. His shrine usually consists of a small one-room building with a minaret at each corner and a grave inside. It is called *mari* and is marked by a long bamboo with

■ peacock plumes, a coconut, some coloured threads and some hand *pankhas* with ■ blue flag on the top. On the day of *naumi*, the devotees offer delicious food at the shrine and dance. Beating of *deroos* is the privilege of either Balmiki community or Dhanak community. They are offered some *charhawa*. It is believed that the spirit of *Gugga* temporarily takes abode in the devotee dancer who proves this fact beating himself occasionally with a bunch of iron chains called *chabuk*. *Gugga Pir* is also the subject of folk-songs in the northern India. The festival is particularly celebrated at Khanpur Kalan.

The festival of *Holi* is celebrated in rural areas in a different manner. At the time of festival married women play Holi with men by throwing coloured water on them. On *Dhulendi* (*Phag*) the men with a degree of relationship throw water on women who beat them with sticks or *Koraras* (twisted cloth of strips). The men act as if they are powerless, and their inability to defend themselves leads to much fun and frolic.

The festival of *Basora* falls in the month of *chait* (March-April) and literally means festival of stale bread. On the eve of festival, all households in the villages prepare *dalia* or sweet rice and set it aside uneaten. Next morning, women rise early and after ablution they perform puja at *Chabutras* dedicated to the *matas*. Then the stale food (*Poondgi*) is offered to all the members of family.

The *Devuthani Giras*, celebrated in the month of *Kartik*, is mainly a festival of women. This is observed in order to awaken the gods who are supposed to be asleep from the ninth day in *Asadh* (June-July). The women keep fast on the day and in the evening they assemble at a selected place and beat upon brass utensils to wake up the gods. After this, they break the fast and special dishes made at this occasion are eaten.

The principal festivals are celebrated in the same way as those are celebrated in the other parts of northern India. It is, therefore, not necessary to give a detailed account of their modes of observance.

Besides the celebration of Hindu festivals, the Sikhs celebrate the *Gurpurabs* (The birth days and martyrdom days of Gurus). On the occasions of these *Gurpurabs* processions are taken out and congregational prayers and recitations from the *Granth Sahib* are held.

The Jains celebrate the birth and nirvan anniversaries of Parsvanath and Mahavira. The principal festivals of Buddhists is Buddha Purnima, the day on which Buddha is believed to have been born and to have attained enlightenment as well as *nirana*.

Christmas and Easter are two principal festivals of the Christians; the former is celebrated in honour of the birth of Jesus Christ, while the latter commemorates his resurrection. The Christians go to churches, exchange presents and hold festivities.

The Muslim festivals are *Id-ul-Fitar* and *Ramzan*. During the month of *Ramzan*, the devout keep fast during the day time throughout the month. *Id-ul-Zuha* commonly called *bakr-id* as goats are butchered in the name of Allah. *Shab-a-Barat* is Celebrated with fire works and presents of sweetmeats.

FAIRS

The *Sat Khumb* fair carries special significance in the area. It is celebrated at Kheri Gujar twice a year, on the last day of *Sravana* (July-August) and *Kartik* full moon day (October-November). The important fairs with their modes of observance, significance and duration are detailed in the Table II of Appendix.

SOCIAL LIFE

CASTES AND SOCIAL GROUPS

Caste.—The caste system with all its ramifications is observed among the Hindus but its social influence is diminishing.

Social groups.—The important social groups are Jats, Brahmans, Rajputs, Sainis, Gujars, Harijans, Aggarwals, Khatris and Aroras. All these groups are scattered throughout the district. The profession and pattern of life style of every social group are detailed below:—

Jats.—The Jat is a major community in the district. The major clans of the community in the district are Dahiya and Malik. Besides agriculture, government service and service in the army are the important professions of the Jats.

Brahmans.—There are many Brahman families who have agricultural lands and are habitually and traditionally agriculturists. They also join army and government service. The other professional *Pandits* perform religious ceremonies of all types.

Aggarwals.—In the past, a few families followed the profession of money-lending. Now besides business and trade, they have switched over to industry and civil service from their traditional family pursuits.

Sainis.—They are in small number and do agricultural operations. They own small holdings of land. They are also expert in cultivation of vegetables. Like others, they also adopt other professions.

Gujars.—They are good cultivators. They join army and other professions. They have their peculiar customs.

Tyagis.—They were originally Brahmans. They refused to accept the offerings and alms and preferred to involve themselves in farming. Consequently the Brahmans made them outcasts (Tyagis). Hence they are called Tyagis. They are mostly concentrated in Ganaur tahsil along the G.T. Road.

Now they are turning towards other occupations besides agriculture.

Khatri and Aroras.—They came as displaced persons after partition and settled in the district as trading communities. The Aroras in particular, who came in large number after the partition are noted for their capacity for hard work. They engage freely in banking, Shop-keeping, trade and government service.

Harijans.—Among Harijans, the Chamars and Balmikis are in large number. A list of Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes is given in the chapter 'Other Social Services'. Before Independence, their avocations were restricted to their hereditary family pursuits. Things, however, changed after Independence.

The Chamar community has made much progress after Independence. They are now politically and socially conscious. Their position is better than those of other such classes.

Balmikis even now follow their old profession of scavenging in urban areas. Now they are more conscious of their social and political rights. The younger generation, especially those who are educated generally prefer government service to other professions.

Backward Classes.—The Kumhars, Lohars, Sunars, Khatis, Barbers, etc. are included in the list of Backward Classes. Besides their hereditary professions, they join government service. Other pursuits followed by them are business, trade and industry.

JOINT FAMILY SYSTEM

The joint family system which has been an important feature of the society since time immemorial, is breaking up under the stress of the changed economic and social conditions. It is more marked in urban areas than rural areas. Now the bond of joint family system is weakening even in villages, where people depend almost entirely on farming. The average holding is too small to support a joint family which continues growing in size. It is, therefore, inevitable that some members of the family should move out in search of service to the town or elsewhere to supplement the family income. In

this way, the migration of rural population to the towns in search of a living whether in business, industry, service or some form of labour has vitally affected the structure of the joint family. Family life is becoming more and more individualistic.

Inheritance

Inheritance of property was regulated by uncodified Hindu law which was based on both customs and precedents set by various courts of law in the whole of the northern India. The family being patrilineal in this region, after the father's death all his sons got an equal share in the property. In case sons were minors, the property went to the widow who became a trustee till the sons attained maturity when the property was divided equally amongst them. In the absence of any male issue, the property was inherited by the widow who could enjoy it till her death or till she re-married, but she had no right to it. In case the wife was already dead and there was no male issue either, the brothers of the deceased inherited the property. In the absence of all the above mentioned relations, the property was inherited by the nearest male relative. Daughters, whether married or un-married had no share in the property, though in case of an unmarried daughter, the person inheriting the property was bound both morally and legally to bear the expenses of her marriage.

Today, the Hindu Succession Act, 1956, provides for a uniform system for all Hindus with respect to intestate succession. The Act removes the inequality between men and women; as now the son, widow and mother, inherit equally. A daughter has as good a claim to her father's property as a son, provided the father does not debar her by law (in case of his self acquired property only.) However, inspite of the right conferred by law, it appears to have become a general practice for the girls not to claim any part of the intestate property.

Regarding the Muslims, they are governed by their personal law of succession and inheritance. The Christians on the other hand, are governed by the Indian Christians Succession Act, of 1925.

Marriage Customs

The marriage among Hindus is monogamous; according to the Hindu Marriage Act of 1935, Polygamy is illegal. On the other hand, a Muslim may, according to the personal law, takes four wives at a time. Due to economic factors, however, this practice is very much in decline. A Christian is invariably monogamous. Now a government employee is liable to be dismissed from service if he marries second time without the permission of the Government.

Marriage among the Hindus is sacrament; its rites being prescribed in the scriptures and to some extent by custom and tradition. Some variations in the performance of different rites by the different castes, or even different families within a caste may, however, occur. Certain rules and restrictions are observed before contracting a matrimonial alliance. The general rule is that marriage should take place within one's own caste, but not in the same *gotra*, the same *gotra* implies *gotra* of father, mother and grandmother. Besides the above, marriage with maternal uncle's son or daughter is also prohibited among the Hindus of northern India. However, some Arora families (Refugees) may cross over this tradition. Another restriction observed is that marriages should take place not only outside one's own village, but also outside the village or villages where people of the same *gotra* reside.

Marriage is an important event of one's life, it is preceded by betrothal and a number of preliminaries and elaborate preparations.

Betrothal.—Mostly, it is the parents of the girl who have to find a suitable match for their daughter. In this, they are generally helped by their relations and friends who reside in different villages and towns. After a suitable boy has been found, negotiations are started either by the parents directly or through a matchmaker. Sometimes, the horoscopes of the boy and girl are examined to ensure that they are mentally compatible. This practice has been generally prevalent among the trading communities, but now it is dying out. Earlier the boy and girl were generally seen and approved by their respective parents or near relatives. But, now the practice of the boy approving the girl himself, especially in the urban areas, is gaining ground. When both the parties agree, the date for *sagal* or betrothal ceremony is fixed. On the day so fixed, the father of the girl accompanied by his male relatives goes to boy's place with sweets and in a simple ceremony applies *tilak* on the forehead of the boy. He gives some money to the boy and also his near relatives, the amount depending upon his economic and social status.

Marriage preliminaries.—The parents of the girl consult *Purohit* regarding *mahurat* or the date for wedding ceremony. The proposed date or day is written by the professional Brahman in a letter, to which a turmeric mark and few grains of rice are affixed, called *Pili chithi* or *lagan*. In the letter the *bana* or number of oil baths to be taken by the boy and girl, are also mentioned.

The ceremony of *Mandha* is performed by the maternal uncle one day before the date fixed for the departure of the wedding party in case of the bridegroom and the day on which the wedding party reaches in case of bride. Seven reeds put together are tied with seven knots of *munj* rope. A piece of red string is then taken and seven *thuthis* alternating with *suparis* are strung thereon. This string is tied to the middle of the reeds which are then fastened

to a door. The maternal uncle in each case performs this ceremony and also brings *bhat* which consists of presents and wedding suits for bridegroom or bride.

Wedding.—On the day of marriage, the boy is dressed in his wedding clothes brought by his maternal uncle. The seven knotted sacred thread is tied on his right wrist on the first day of the *ban* ceremony. His head-dress consists of a crown or a crest over the turban and a *sehra* covering the face; the *sehra* being tied by his sister's husband. The groom's brother's wife applies some *surma* to his eyes. He then gets on the back of a mare to perform the ceremony of *ghurchari*. Some one leads the decorated mare with the bridegroom to a temple or god of homestead for worship. The boy's sisters follow him throwing rice accompanied by other women singing songs. After this ceremony is over, the wedding procession called *baraat* accompanied by a band party, sets off for bride's place. The *baraat* in rural areas is solely composed of the male relatives and friends of the groom, but in urban areas the inclusion of women is not uncommon.

If the marriage party comes from any outstation, it is received by the bride's side at the pre-fixed venue, from where the *baraat* is taken to a *dharmshala* or chopal or any other place where the arrangements for the stay of *baraat* have been made. In the evening, the *baraat* goes in procession, the bridegroom on mare, to the bride's house where the *baraat* is received by her relatives and others. The first ceremony to be performed is called *dhukao* when the boy's father and girl's father embrace each other and the latter gives a monetary gift to the former. Then the bride is brought out of the house where the *Jaimala* ceremony on the boy and the girl is performed. At this time the groom touches the *barauthi* with the iron cane. This ceremony is known as *barauthi*.

Thereafter, the marriage party is feasted and the main function starts. For this ceremony, a pavilion called *bedti* is generally set up in the courtyard of the bride's place. During the ceremony, sacred fire is lighted. The Brahman ties a corner of the girl's wrap to a piece of cloth called *Patka* and the boy and girl go round the holy fire seven times amidst chanting of *mantras* and take vows of faithfulness towards each other. This is called *phera* ceremony. Then follows the *kanyadan*—the so called formal bride-giving ceremony. The parents thus give away their daughter in marriage and bless her into the worldly life.

At this time dowry is given; it generally consists of cash, ornaments, dresses, household utensils, furniture, etc. The farewell ceremony is called *vida* after which the *baraat* returns taking the bride with them.

On reaching the bridegroom's house, his mother performs the *bahu ka utarna* ceremony. She sprinkles some water from the vessel and drinks a

few drops from it also. Oil is put on the two ends of the frame of the entrance door. Thereafter, *kangna kholna* ceremony takes place. In the *munh dikhai* ceremony, the bride is offered some gifts, usually cash, on showing her face to the female relatives and friends. After staying for a day or two; the couple visits the bride's house.

Marriage among the Sikhs has many similarities with those of the Hindus. Selection of the boy is done in the same manner and the engagement ceremony is called *mangani*. As the actual marriage ceremony called *anand Karj* is performed always in the afternoon, the *baraat* is taken out in some cases in the evening, while in others in the morning. Like the Hindus, the ceremony of *ghurcharhi* is also performed, the boy being taken to gurdwara to pay respects. Women also accompany the *barat* and sometimes even join the menfolk in dancing *bhangra*. The *barat* is received by the girl's father and other relatives. Then the ceremony of *milni* takes place in which the fathers of the boy and girl embrace each other and the latter makes a small monetary gift to the former. Before serving the *barat* with delicious food, *jaimala* ceremony is performed. This is followed by the actual ceremony which is presided over by the *granthi*. After a brief *shabad kirtan*, the *granthi* reads the four *lanwas* and the couple walk around the *Granth Sahab* four times. *Karah Parshad* is distributed to the assembled guests at the conclusion of *Anand Karaj*. The farewell ceremony is called *doli* after which the *baraat* returns with the bride.

Marriage among Muslims is a contract. Unlike the Hindus, the initiative among the Muslims is always taken by the boy's side. The request for the hand of the girl is conveyed to her parents through a letter, called *ruqqa*, written on golden paper and wrapped in a red handkerchief.

Thereafter, the date for engagement called *mangani* is fixed. For this ceremony, mostly female relations of the boy accompanied by a few men go to the girl's place taking presents of sweets, ornaments, betel, etc. with them. After certain ceremonies, a golden ring and a silver band is put on the third finger of the girl's right hand. Later the same day, a few relatives of the girl's go to the boy's house with similar gifts. The females relatives of the boy go to the girl's house again after some time for settling the date of marriage. This is called *biah mangna*.

On the day of the marriage, the bridegroom is dressed in the wedding clothes and a *sehra* made of flowers. He rides a mare and leads the marriage party. The *barat* is received by the bride's relatives and the bridegroom is seated on a dais. The ceremony of *nikah* then starts. The *qazi* sits opposite him along with *vakil* and two witnesses. After *Khutba* is read, the consent of bride to the marriage is formally attested by the witnesses,

though in practice the consent has been prearranged. The bridegroom's consent is also formally asked. After *nikah*, *sherbat*, *misri* and *chuharas* are distributed.

The *Qazi* enters the *nikah* in his register and prepares the *kabin name* (marriage papers) on which the names of the bride and bridegroom, the *mehr* fixed, the date of marriage, etc. are written. This paper is signed by the bridegroom along with a couple of his relations who sign as witnesses. The *Qazi* also signs it and hands it over to the bride's parents. After *sehra* has been recited, the assembled guests are served with food. The bridegroom is taken inside the house for performing certain ceremonies. The concluding ceremony is called *rukhsat* when the bride is carried to the *Palki* and the *baraat* returns.

Marriage among Christians is solemnised in the church by the priest. Before the marriage ceremony, he baptises the bride and bridegroom. After the ceremony, the friends and relatives are served with a feast. There is not much difference in rituals among the Roman Catholics and the Protestants.

The Jains have the same system of marriage as the Hindus.

Dowry System.—The practice of giving, taking and demanding dowry has been declared illegal with the passing of the Dowry Prohibition Act in 1961. Any person who violates the law can be sentenced to imprisonment upto six months or to a fine upto Rs. 5,000, or both.

On June, 12, 1960, a big social conference of all castes was held at Sisana village to effect reforms in marriage and other customs. The conference, which was attended by over one lakh persons, expressed views against the evil of the dowry system. But people in general were not inclined to accept reforms in this matter.

The dowry system is very much prevalent among all the communities of the district. The amount spent on dowry generally varies with the economic and social status of the person concerned. In dowry, all sorts of articles, such as ornaments, clothes, utensils and other household goods, besides cash, are given. The amount of dowry to be given by the girl's parents is decided before the marriage. Large sum of money has to be spent if the girl is to be married in a well-placed family. Besides, in case the father of the girl fails to give sufficient dowry, sometimes it may result in quarrels and even ill-treatment of the bride by her husband as well as the in-laws.

The dowry legislation as already referred has not fully succeeded in achieving this object.

Inter-Caste Marriages¹

The caste endogamy is rigid and inter-communal marriages do not take place. In the rural areas inter-caste marriages are strictly tabooed. Any violation would lead to an expulsion from the caste.

Civil Marriages.

Civil marriages in India are regulated by the special Marriage Act, of 1954. It provides a secular code of marriage irrespective of caste, religion or race. The only condition stipulated by the Act is that a man should be over 21 years, a woman over 18, and that neither should have a spouse living at the time of marriage. A marriage Registrar, normally a Deputy Commissioner, is appointed under this Act, who registers such marriages and issues certificates. The solemnisation does not include any religious ceremony. The procedure for a civil marriage is very simple, either of the two parties to the marriage can give notice to the Registrar of their intention to marry. The notice must be given 15 days before the date of proposed marriage. The notice is then exhibited on the notice board in the office of Deputy Commissioner for any objections. If no objection is raised within 15 days, the marriage is performed; the parties sign the register and a marriage certificate duly signed by the Registrar is issued.

Widow Marriage

The form of widow marriage is being practised in both urban and rural areas. It is permitted by all castes except the Brahmans and Baniyas, though among them also under the influence of social reformers orthodox restrictions to it are losing ground. No compulsion is exercised on the widow for remarriage. If she wishes to remain in the same family and there is a

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1. To diminish caste considerations, the state government has introduced a scheme under which a scheduled caste boy/girl marrying a non-scheduled caste girl/boy would be given Rs. 5,000 as an incentive. Of this, Rs. 2,000 would be given in cash and Rs. 3,000 in the form of fixed deposit for a minimum period of six years.

(This report appeared in the Indian Express, dated 8th January, 1987).

younger brother of the deceased husband, she is given liberty to marry him if he is willing to accept her. In such a case, no regular ceremony takes place, the widow is simply covered by the man with a sheet of cloth in the presence of near relations.

Karewa or a widow marrying the younger brother of her deceased husband is common among the Jats, Ahirs, Gujars and Harijans.

In case the husband dies shortly after marriage and the girl has not lived with him or if she has no issue, she is remarried with all the usual ceremonies performed at the marriage. This is called *puner vivah* which is mostly adopted by the Aggarwals and the Brahmins among whom a brother-in-law does not generally accept his sister-in-law as his wife.

When a woman enters into intimacy with any person without any social formalities and they begin to live together as husband and wife, it is called *kara*, like *krepa*, it is also not attended with any ceremony.

The *Karewa* wife is in all respects a legitimate wife and her sons inherit with those of the wife married by *Shadi*.

The Muhammadans, of course, are free to marry again. The *Karewa* of a woman of Islam is called *nikah sani* (a second marriage).

The system of widow marriage is also prevalent among Sikhs and Christians.

Divorce

Hindu marriages performed under Vedic rites were indissoluble till the Hindu Code Bill of 1955. Despite the fact that no legal provision for divorce existed among the Hindus prior to 1955. The cases of such nature were decided by the village or caste panchayats. Now for the first time in the history of the Hindus, the sanctions of the customary laws were done away with and a uniform law was made applicable to all Hindus. The Act permits divorce either by husband or wife.

There is a general tendency to prefer a miserable life rather than to dissolve the marriage. In case of hardship, the parents of the girl recall their daughter. However, 138 cases for seeking divorce were reported in the district during 1988-89, the details of which may be seen in the Table III of Appendix.

Islam was perhaps the only religion of the time to treat marriage a purely social and contractual obligation. A Muslim husband in India divorces his wife by simply pronouncing the word *talak* three times. A divorced Muslim woman cannot get any maintenance from her husband as, in theory, she has been provided for at the time of her marriage by fixation of *mehar*. In order to miti-

gate the unequal position of the Muslim wife, the Government enacted the Dissolution of Muslim Marriages Act, 1939, under which the wife could claim a divorce from her husband under certain conditions enumerated in the Act. But unlike the husband, she is required to establish her case in the court before she can obtain a divorce.

The divorce among the Christians is governed by the Indian Divorce Act of 1869. A Christian can obtain a divorce from his wife only if he can prove that she has committed adultery. A wife, on the other hand, has to show that the husband's conduct is not merely adulterous but also cruel, or that he has committed incestuous adultery, or bigamy with adultery, or adultery with desertion for two years or more. Grounds for judicial separation are desertion, cruelty, adultery, impotency and lunacy.

PLACE OF WOMEN IN THE SOCIETY

Since Independence, efforts have been made to remove legal disabilities of Indian Women by passing several Acts. The Hindu Code Bill and Hindu Marriage Acts not only prohibited polygamy but granted the right to divorce to women as well. With regard to inheritance rights, the Hindu Succession Act of 1956 puts women on equal footing with men. Now women are given absolute control over their property. In the matter of adoption too women had no choice before 1956, but according to the Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act, 1955, a married woman can adopt a child under certain circumstances. The legal rights of maintenance for women are also recognised by the Act, under which a wife has a right to maintenance even when she is separated from her husband. The suppression of Immoral Traffic Act, 1956 and the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 provide some status and equal footing with men to the women.

The vast majority of women in rural areas are not economically self-supporting. They take their proper share in work. They bring water from the public stand post or well, cook morning and evening meals and even carry food to men at work in the fields. In addition to numerous household jobs, they participate nearly in all agricultural operations like hoeing, weeding and harvesting except ploughing.

In rural areas purdah system is still in vogue. The maidens cover their heads while the daughters-in-law cover their faces when moving among the elderly persons in the house or in the village.

The Arya Samaj movement in Haryana did create an impact, but only regarding certain other issues. As far as the liberation of women from their veiled condition and subdued identity was concerned, the Arya Samaj teachings could not percolate down and change their conditions much.

The Haryanvi woman is still the bread-earner. What is remarkable indeed is her equipoise and self-possession, despite growing concern about the future of her family. She withstands all hardships only for the satisfaction that she has been able to discharge, to the best of her capacity, the combined role of mother and father to her children.

The position is different in urban areas. Due to education, social barriers against the employment of women are collapsing rapidly. Though a section of women are engaged in employment yet they occupy a subordinate position compared to men in the social life.

Prostitution

Trafficking in women for immoral purpose does not exist in the district, nor is there any organised gang of traffickers of women. Earning a living by sex or flesh trade is punishable under the Suppression of Immoral Traffic Act, 1956.

OTHER RITUAL AND CUSTOMS

Birth Ceremonies among Hindus.—The birth of a child, particularly that of a son, is an occasion of celebration. To announce the birth of an infant, a brass-plate (thali) is rung in the room where the delivery takes place. *Ghuti* is given to the infant. Then *chuchi dhuai* ceremony is generally performed by the sister-in-law of the woman. She washes her nipples with warm water and receives monetary gifts or some golden ornaments, only after the ceremony the breast-feeding starts. The room in which confinement takes place is marked (in the rural areas) by hanging of a net of ropes in which a *neem* twig is suspended.

On the sixth day, *chhati* ceremony is performed. All the members of family keep awake throughout the night. The friends and relatives enjoy delicious food and play cards. It is generally believed that on the night of *Chhati*, *Behmata* (the goddess of fate) writes the fate of the baby. On the tenth day, the whole house is cleaned and *haven* ceremony is also performed. The sacred water of the Ganga is sprinkled in the house. If it is not available, the cow urine is sprinkled. On the tenth day, the parents of *Jacha* (mother) bring some clothes and ornaments for the infant and its mother. The ladies sing the traditional songs at night. In the rural areas, there are many families in which *kumuan dokn* ceremony (well-worship) is performed.

After a few days of the birth of a boy, the father or grandfather goes to a Brahman and asks him to select a name. The Brahman opens his *patra*, and having regard to the time of birth, selects the initial letter for the child's name. There are certain castes which invite the Brahman to perform the birth ceremonies on the tenth day. On the very day Brahman is consulted about the naming ceremony of the baby. On the 10th day after birth one of the elder men of the

family chooses a name beginning with the letter suggested by the Brahman, avoiding any name already given to any elder (geneologically) member of the family, whether still alive or dead. Within these limits the selection of a name is arbitrary. The child may be named after a god or goddess as *Suraj* (the Sun), *Kanhaya* (Krishna), *Shoeji* (after Shiv), *Ram Chander* (Ram Chander or Ram), *Devi Sahahi* (Protected by Devi) or after a holy place as *Mathura* or a holy object as *Tulsi Ram* (basil). Sometimes the names are selected with the object of averting the jealousy of an evil spirit. This is the explanation of such names as *Molar* (purchased), *Mangtu* (borrowed), *Ghasita* (dragged), *Budhu* (Stupid), and *Badhu* (exchanged—for rice given by the mother in charity). *Kurriya* means heavy heap, the child of a mother who has lost several children in infancy will be laid after birth by a heap of refuse and so named.

The girls from birth are less appreciated than boys and for their names no Brahman is consulted, but some elderly woman in the family names the baby.

Among Aroras, the *chola* is an important ceremony, which is celebrated on the 15th or 17th day of the newly born son when new clothes, consecrated by their Brahman, are worn. A feast is provided to friends and relatives.

Almost all Hindus perform the *mundan* ceremony when a boy is few years old. This ceremony is performed at some religious place. At this occasion, some friends and relatives are also invited.

Among Sikhs, on the 10th day, the child and mother are bathed and they presented before the holy *Granth Sahib*. The *path* of the *Granth Sahib* is performed on the day. The *karah prashad* is distributed among the assembled friends and relatives. The child is named on that day. The *Granth* is opened at random and the first letter of the *bani* at which the *Granth* opens, gives the first letter of the child's name.

Some of the Sikhs perform *kesh dahi* ceremony by putting the curd in the hair of the boy—ceremony corresponding to *mundan* among the Hindus.

Birth Ceremonies among Muhammadans.—At the time of birth, a *Qazi* is sent for and he recites the *bang* in the child's right ear and the *takbir* in its left ear. The infant's aunt washes the mother's nipple with warm water and receives some money. On the sixth day, the mother is bathed and her clothes changed. The mother is kept inside the room for 10 days and sleeps in the same room for 40 days. A light *chirag* and a piece of iron are kept in the room at night and are supposed to avert the bad influence of evil spirits. Circumcision (*sunat*) is an important ceremony. It is performed at any time before the age of 12 in the presence of *biradari*.

Birth Ceremony among Christians.— A child born in a Christian family is christened by the church priest. This ceremony is called baptism. The Christians also rejoice at the birth of a son but the birth of a daughter is not disliked by them. The mother observes no period of impurity.

Death Ceremonies.—The Hindus cremate the dead body as a rule; the only exception being *kanphara jogis* who bury their dead like Muslims and Christians. The post-cremation rites include 12-day mourning in case of females and 13-day mourning in case of males. The last ceremony is called *tehrammee*. The *phul* (bones) are immersed into the Ganges at Haridwar in the presence of a priest. The woman breaks her bangles at the time of death of her husband.

The similar customs prevail among the Sikhs with the difference that ceremonies are performed by a Granthi. The Sikhs end the mourning with bhog ceremony.

The Muhammadans, after bathing the dead body and wrapping it into white cloth, take the bier to the mosque. The Mullah reads the Kalma and then the dead body is buried in the grave yard.

The Christians bury their dead in a coffin. An epitaph is sometimes fixed on the grave indicating particulars about the dead.

HOME LIFE

Dwellings, Furniture and Household Utensils.—The housing pattern in the district is largely conditioned by the economic resources of the individual householder and availability of building material in and around the village. In the same village, one may find beautiful double storeyed houses as also poorly built mud houses with thatched roofs. On the basis of the purpose for which the structures are used, they can be classified into the following three categories;—

1. *Ghar*-house
2. *Baithak*—Sitting or drawing room
3. *Gher*—cattleshed

The house serves as the residential structure for all members of the family. Here food is cooked and all household articles are kept. It is mainly meant for the females, and except for the male members of the family, no outsider is allowed to it. The *baithak* is meant for the exclusive use of the male members of family. Mostly elderly male members of the family sleep there at night. It serves as a sort of guest house and in case any visitor wishes to stay overnight, he is put up there. Generally, the *baithak* is constructed away from residential house, though it can be adjacent to the latter also.

The cattleshed is constructed in the open yard of the residential house or the *gher*. It is provided with the pegs to tether the animals and mangers to feed them. In the rural areas, the people have to live in the company of animals, because they do farming with the help of such animals. It may, however, be added that a particular structure need be exclusive, it can be used for more than one purpose; a *ghar* may also include a cattleshed, a *baithak*, or both.

The houses in the rural areas are generally constructed without any plan. There is hardly any provision for latrines, the members of the family go out in the fields to answer the call of nature. The provision of bathroom exists in the houses.

With the spread of education the rural people are engaged in services. The town of Sonipat is very near to the national capital and it has been included in the National Capital Region. Most of the people go to Delhi daily to their places of work and return after the duty is over. They now realise a sense of standard of living. Many people like city life and they construct their houses in the towns/cities.

With the establishment of model towns and new colonies in various urban areas of the district, modern houses with a courtyard and lawns are also coming up. The business community in the urban areas have constructed pucca houses which are generally double-storeyed. Such houses are located in the market; the shops are constructed on the ground floor and living quarters are made behind the shops or on the 1st floor. They have also arrangements for the latrines and bathrooms.

The villagers generally have the articles of utility and not of beauty or show and particularly include *charpoy*, *pihras* and *moorahs*. A few houses have chairs or tables. Wealthy persons make arrangements for sofas, iron almirahs, tables and chairs. There are many families which maintain televisions.

In the urban areas chairs and tables are placed in the drawing room. The homes of wealthy persons of middle class or upper middle class are tastefully furnished and decorated in a modern style. Sofa-sets, wardrobes, beds and other miscellaneous items of furniture decorate the houses. Those who can afford, have curtains on doors and windows as well as carpets and *durrees*. On the walls, colourful calenders, pictures of deities or scenery are also found. In the Christian houses, the pictures of the Christ, Virgin Mary, etc. are hung on the walls; whereas the Sikhs have the portraits of their Gurus. The Muslims have the sacred number 786 and sketches of Mecca and Madina.

The general name for household vessels is *bartan*; the earthen ones being collectively known as *basan* and the metal ones *kasan*. An old Gazetteer listed the following items:—

- (1) *Bartan* (called *degechi* by Muslims) a small pan of brass for cooking *dal*, etc.;
- (2) *Tokni* (called *degcha* by Muslims) a large pan of brass for cooking rice, etc.;
- (3) *Tokna* (called *deg* by Muslims), the same but large;
- (4) *Thali* (called *rikabi* by Muslims), a metal plate;
- (5) *Bela* or *Katora* (called *Pyala* by Muslims), a big cup of brass or *kansi* for drinking milk and butter-milk, etc. It is called *Katori* when of a smaller size.;
- (6) *Lota* or *Banta* (called *badna* by Muslims), a small pot of brass for drinking water, taking bath, etc.;
- (7) A *bakhora*, a small tumbler of brass;
- (8) *Chamcha*, a spoon of brass;
- (9) *Parat* (called *tubuk* by Muslims), a tray of brass for kneading flour;
- (10) *Bilomini*, a churn pot;
- (11) *Tawa*, an iron girdle for cooking bread; and
- (12) *Chimta*, the iron-tongs.

Almost all the utensils listed above are still being used by the people of all communities. A few more items, such as *karchhi*—big spoon, *gilas*—metal tumbler, *Chakla* and *belan*—wooden plate and roller, *karahi*—an iron and brass pan used for frying, *tokni*—a brass pitcher to store water, *balti*—bucket, *chhalni*—sieve, *handi*—an earthen vessel used for boiling milk and storing *ghee* are now commonly used in the district. Now there is a fashion to use stainless steel vessels in every household. Another item in the towns/cities in great demand is the pressure cooker. The use of crockery is very common in the urban areas.

Dress.—The clothes worn by the people in rural areas are generally simple. The men usually or traditionally wear *dhoti*, *kurta* and turban, generally called *safa* and *Pagri*. The farmers/agriculturists particularly prefer to wear turban as it provides greater protection against sun in summer and

cold winds in winter. During the winter season, they wrap themselves with a *chadar* or *khes* made of thick coarse yarn. The younger generation, especially employees and students wear shirts, pantaloons, woollen suits etc. The employees and students in urban areas also use pants, trousers and bush-shirts. In winter season, those who can afford, also use woollen coats and trousers, sweaters, etc.

The usual dress of the woman is *kamiz*, *lehanga* or *ghagra*, *duppata* or *orhna* and *salwar*. A *ghagra* is made with 6-35 yards of coarse printed cloth, and the more the cloth used, the better it is considered. It was also considered a sign of affluence. But, today only elderly women like to wear *ghagra*. The young girls prefer to use *salwar* and *kamiz*. The use of *sari* is also adopted by the married women. Their clothes are gaudily coloured, with blue, red and yellow dominating. They never wear anything pure white as that is considered inauspicious; wearing white dress by a woman signifies that she is a widow. In winter, women cover themselves with thick coarse *chaddar* or *shawl*. Sweaters and jerseys are in common use.

Regarding footwear, the males mostly wear the local made laceless shoes known as *jutis*, *chappals* and laced shoes are also used especially by those who are in service. The children, especially students in rural areas, sometimes wear cheap canvas shoes, though for most part they remain bar-footed. The women wear *jutis* whose front is embroidered either with coloured thread or sometimes with tilla-silver thread, forming a variety of pattern. While slippers and chappals are gaining popularity with the women in the villages because of their lightness, sandals are generally worn by the married women. The latest use of rubber chappals /plastic footwear is being adopted by the people.

The girl-students of wealthy persons wear bush-shirts and trousers instead of *salwar* and *kamiz*. Thus social change is reflected in the dress which contrasts with the traditional wear.

Ornaments.—The ornaments worn by women are usually made of gold and silver. They include *jaumala*, *kanthmala*, *kanthi* and *galsari* made of gold; *haar* (necklace) and *hansli* made of silver, and *jhalra* (long hanging string of gold *mohar* or silver rupees); these are worn around the neck. *Karan phul* and *bujani* of gold, and *dande* of silver are for the ears while there is a variety of finger-rings, plain and ornamented with different names for each. The large nose-ring is called *nath*. It is worn only after marriage; till then the hole in the nose is kept open by a plain ring or a *dandi* (wad). Several ornaments like *kari* (anklet), *chhalkara* and *neori* and *pati* are worn on the legs. *Tops* and *balian* for ears, *churis* for the wrists and *pandels* for the neck are some of the ornaments of daily use. The other ornaments already referred are used on the special occasions.

The men do not wear ornaments. However a gold ring on the finger is worn by the people. The urbanites, many males and females, are in the habit of

using the rings embedded with stones suggested by the professional *pandits* and astrologers. There is another class of persons who use garlands of beads or rosary in the name of their *gurus*.

Food.—The diet of the people is very simple. It consists of three meals. The morning meal consists of *lassi* (butter-milk) and *chapatis*, made from wheat flour. (The lunch meal includes *chapatis* and one dish of vegetables or pulses or *kari* (prepared with gramflour). The evening meal varies according to the seasons. Milk and *rotis* (made of wheat, maize or bajra) alongwith *rabri* are taken in the summer. *Rabri* is a special dish of the area prepared by fomenting flour in the butter-milk before cooking it. *Dalia* (porridge of broken wheat) is eaten in the rainy season and *khichri* (porridge of bajra and *moong*) in winter. In winter, *sag*, prepared from green mustard leaves (*sarson*) is eaten almost everyday by the villagers. The poor section, also take food with *chatni*, prepared from crushed onion, mint, chillies and salt. The well-to-do families use pure *ghee*, while the middle class families use vegetable oils.

Thus, practically, the food of the villagers is without any variety; common delicacies such as *halwa*, *poori*, *khir* and *churma* are prepared only on festive occasions or on the visit of a guest. Occasionally meat is also used.

In the towns the food habits are somewhat different. The urbanites prefer wheat flour to other kinds of flour. In the morning, they take breakfast which include egg with milk, modern bread with omelet of eggs and *parathas* with curd. The lunch menu include *chapatis* of wheat flour and dishes of vegetables and pulses. The dinner consists of *chapatis*, vegetables and pulses.

Those who can afford relish meat and chicken. Pickles and *chatni* are also taken with meals.

Tea as a stimulating drink is very popular with both urban and rural folk. Tea stalls are found in every town/village and on way side of G.T. road. In the summer months, some people take a glass of *lassi* and *sherbat*. Whisky and other types of liquor are consumed by villagers and urbanites.

Tobacco smoking is quite common in the district. The villagers still prefer *hookah* to *bidi*.

Games and Recreations.—Wrestling, *kabaddi*, *gind khuli*, *gulli ganda* (tip cat) and *lukkam lukka* are popular indigenous games in the district, the last three being usually played by children. *Gind khuli* is the indigenous version of the game of hockey. It is played with a stick and a ball made of rags and twigs. *Guli danda* is played in a ground outside the village in many forms. *Lukkam lukka* is played by children. Wrestling and *kabaddi* are very

popular sports among young and middle aged persons. Usually every village has an *akhara* (arena) where the young men and children go regularly for wrestling exercises. During the fairs held from time to time on the occasion of festivals for in the memory of pir, sadhu and saint, wrestlings form an important part of the social fairs. *Kabaddi* is played by two teams. The dimension of the field, the number of players on a side and the duration of the game are undefined. Regular tournaments are held to discover promising talents in national events.

Chess, cards and *chopar* are some of indoor games which are played in urban as well as rural areas. Modern games like hockey, cricket, football, volleyball and basket-ball are popular among students. Panchayats and private associations also organize these games to inculcate a sense of sportsmanship among the younger generation. Government subsidizes the construction of playgrounds and stadiums and gives grants towards coaching centres and tournaments.

Gossiping and listening to the songs, particularly with advent of television sets/transistors, are common pastimes. The T.V. sets are commonly seen in the cities but a few families have also arranged the T.V. sets in the villages. In towns, cinemas are the most popular centres of mass recreation suiting the pocket of the rich and the poor alike and by and large, are the only places of public entertainments. The villagers also enjoy cinema by visiting towns, as no village has cinema hall.

Recorded film songs and music are freely played on marriages and other festive occasions.

COMMUNITY LIFE

The community life is more effectively organised in villages than in towns. The social situation is different; big and small land-owners, agricultural labourers and workers are not far apart from each other. The limited amenities and amusements of village life are equally shared by all of them and require their combined attention. The community development programmes give an incentive or stimulus to community activities of various kinds and the panchayats have become a nucleus of community activities.

Community life is expressed through folk songs sung at the time of marriages and festivals. Folk culture preserved by village women is reflected through traditional folk songs and folk dances.

Folk Songs.—The culture of the area is expressed through folk songs. There is a variety of folk songs. Some of these are connected with nature, sung in different seasons. These express hopes, aspirations, love-longings,

joys, and sorrow of the people. The emotional outbursts of married couples on their union and separation could be heard through songs in the rural area. Particularly, the songs are connected with marriage, birth of a son and other festival occasions. Besides religious songs, there are songs that describe the heroic deeds of the past heroes; Alha Udal, Fatta Jaimal, Bhura Baddal and Vir Jawahar Mal.

Ragnis of Lakhmi Chand are sung by the people of this area. Pt. Lakhmi Chand was resident of this district.

As rainy season commences, in every village swings are hung from the branches of trees of *neem*, *kikar* and *pipal*. The young girls and brides gather together to enjoy swingings. They sing songs on this occasion. The climax is reached on the *Teej* when the whole atmosphere resounds with sweet melodies. Some typical songs are given below :—

*Jhulan Jungi hai ma mare baag maan re,
Aye re Koi sang-saheli chaar ;
Jhulan Jangi hai ma mare baag maan re,
Koi pandru ki ma mare, koi bees ki re ;
Aye koi sang-saheli, char, jhula,
koi gori hai ma mare, koi sanwari;
Aye re koi.....*

(English version.—My own mother, I am going to swing in the garden. A few of my companions are also coming. Some of my friends are fifteen, while others may be twenty; some are of fair-complexion while others may be wheat-coloured.)

2. *Teeja ka teuhar ritu sa saman ki,
Khari Jhool pe matka chhori Lahman ki ;
Kuan tun ouchni peeng chadawe,
Raun par ke naar turawe ;
Yah large dali Neem ki ,
Teeja ka*

(English version.—It is festival of *Teej* and the season of *Sawan*. The Lahman girl is playing pranks, standing on the swing. Why do you swing so high? If you fall, it will break your neck. The branches of Neem tree are trembling.)

The following English version of song depicts a young girl, parted from her husband; *phalgun* becomes a season of poignant pain :

When my dear husband is away, O you mad month o. *phalgun*,

Why have you come? What is the use of your coming?

O, my husband, when the whole of *phalgun* has passed away ?

Other young couples are dancing and making merry,

While I am sitting alone, deep in sorrow.

There had been very important *swangis* in the area. People sing their *ragnis*. Two *ragnis* are given below :

*Bharti holai ra tare bahar khara rangrut,
Yahan rakhta madhham bana ;
Milta ha phatta purana,
Yahan milta hai full boot,
Bharti ho lai ra*

(English version.—Come and join the army; the recruits are waiting outside your door; you have only old worn out clothes to wear here, but there in the army you will get full boots.)

A *bhajni* begins his play or *swang* with the following lines in praise of the goddess of knowledge.

(*Bhawani*) :

*Ay re bhawani baas kar,
matra ghat ka parda khol ;
Rasna par basa karo,
bhai shudh shabd mukh bol.*
(Oh, Goddess *Bhawani*, give me enlightenment.)

Folk dances.—Folk dancing is an outburst of singing occasion. There are occasions on which women perform this type of dance.

Swang is one of the main feature of cultural life of the people of this area. It is form of open-air theatre and the stage is in the midst of the audience. The formalities of the drama like costumes, curtains and make-up are hardly observed. The audience sit on all the four sides whereas orchestra takes its seat in the middle of the stage. Generally the leader of the *swang* party plays the role of hero and other actors play different roles including that of females. In summer, it is played late at night and continues till early hours of the morning ; while it is performed at noon in winter. The mythological stories and folk tales generally provide the themes.

There are historical and semi-historical themes based on epics, such as *Draupadi Chir Haran*, *Amar Singh Rathore*, *Sarwar Neer*, *Jaswant Singh*, etc.

REHABILITATION

The large-scale communal disturbances that followed the partition of the country in 1947 inflicted vast sufferings and lakhs of people were forced to migrate from Pakistan to India and *vice-versa*. Millions of uprooted Hindus and Sikhs from Pakistan entered what was then called the East Punjab (India). In order to settle the refugees, camps were established in Sonipat district also. Free ration was distributed in refugee camps. Fruits, multivitamin tablets and other special items of diet were also issued for refugees on medical advice, dispensaries were opened for providing immediate medical aid. These camps were of great help to the immigrants who after residing there for some time tried to find out work to rehabilitate themselves. Most of the rural population moved into the villages where they were given temporary possession of land of Muslims migrated to Pakistan. The refugees in urban areas took to miscellaneous occupations in towns. A number of immigrants from Pakistan who settled in the areas of the Sonipat district were from Jhang, Multan, Muzafargarh and Lyallpur and other parts of Pakistan, as is evident from the statement below :—

District of origin (in Pakistan)	Number of displaced persons settled in the district		
	Rural area	Urban area	Total
1. Jhang ..	11,200	11,015	22,215
2. Multan ..	1,434	4,483	5,917
3. Muzafargarh ..	11,546	10,433	21,979
4. Lyallpur ..	485	1,501	1,986
5. Other parts of Pakistan ..	2,839	5,649	8,488
..	27,504	33,081	60,585

Rural Rehabilitation

Allotment of land.—In the beginning, the allotment of land was made on temporary basis to groups of cultivators who wished to live together. Subsequently the Government invited claims on the prescribed forms from the displaced persons and after verification from the revenue records obtained from the Government of Pakistan, land was allotted to them on quasi permanent basis. Likewise, the houses/plots in urban and rural areas were also allotted to the displaced persons. The Table IV of Appendix shows the total evacuee agricultural land (urban and rural) available in the district and their disposal as on March 31, 1989.

Agricultural Loans.—Allottees of land were given financial assistance by way of agricultural loan for purchasing bullocks, implements, fodder, seed and for repair of wells and houses. In order to minimise misuse of loans, these were advanced in kind instead of cash. A sum of Rs. 5,47,047 was advanced in the district as agricultural loan.

Urban Rehabilitation

Urban Loans.—In urban areas loans were advanced to displaced persons to enable them to establish themselves in different locations. All classes of such persons comprising traders, artisans, industrialists, lawyers and medical practitioners were helped with loans. These loans carried an interest @ 3 per cent per annum and the recovery of the loans was to be started after three years of disbursement. The loans together with interest thereon were repayable in equal instalments spread over a period of 6 years. The loans were strictly to be utilised for the purpose for which these were given. The following figures show the year-wise amount of such loans advanced to displaced persons during the period from 1949-50 to 1956-57 :—



Year		Loans Advanced (Rs.)
1949-50	..	3,66,615
1950-51	..	1,96,087
1951-52	..	1,03,023
1952-53	..	8,483
1953-54	..	1,917
1954-55	..	5,805
1955-56	..	10,800
1956-57	..	9,000

The scheme of urban loans was discontinued after 1956-57.

Rehabilitation Colonies.—In order to provide roofed accommodation to the refugees, a mud hut colony at Sonipat was set up in March, 1951. As many as 730 huts were constructed and the cost of one mud hut was fixed at Rs. 255 (Rs. 75 as cost of land and Rs. 180 as cost of developing super-structure). In the first instance, the inhabitants of the camp were allotted these mud huts on rental basis. In May, 1953 these mud huts were offered to the occupants for purchase on reserved price. Some of the occupants had got verified their claims in lieu of the property abandoned by them in Pakistan and some were non-claimants. In the case of claimants, the cost of

mud hut was adjusted through settlement authorities with whom they had filed compensation applications in lieu of their verified claims. Only the cost of land was recovered from the non-claimants while the rest of the cost of mud hut was recoverable in three annual instalments. However, in the case of destitute widows, these huts were offered free of cost.

Shopping Centre.—A shopping centre known as Punjabi Market was also set up at Ganaur. Shops numbering 82 were constructed by the displaced persons who were advanced loans at the rate of Rs. 500 each by the Rehabilitation Department.

Other Housing Schemes.—The housing problem remained acute because most of the Muslim emigrants were labourers and artisans and therefore, their houses were modest whereas the incoming persons were businessmen and shopkeepers, used to better dwellings. Keeping the above situation in view, the Government established a new township, 8-marla (cheap) housing colony and 4-marla (cheap) tenement. The details of houses constructed and plots laid out under various schemes are given below :—

New Township, Sonipat	200 houses	10 shops	..	288 plots
8-Marla (cheap) Housing Colony, Sonipat	200 houses		..	17 plots
4-Marla (cheap) Tenement, Sonipat	108 Tenements		..	..

Houses and sites were also sold at reserved price, under the East Punjab Refugees Rehabilitation, Building and building sites) Act, 1948. In the beginning, only 46 houses and 50 plots were sold. Later, it was decided by the Government on June 11, 1963 that the houses and plots in the rehabilitation colonies should be disposed of in accordance with the provision contained in rule 28 and 90 of the Displaced persons (Compensation and Rehabilitation) Rules, 1955. In case of sale of these properties to displaced persons, 20 per cent of the sale price was to be recovered in cash and the balance in 7 equal instalments together with interest at the rate of 4½ per cent per annum. In case of their sale to non-displaced persons, the sale price was to be recovered in accordance with the provision of rule 90 *ibid*.

CHAPTER IV

AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION

INTRODUCTION

As in the past, agriculture constitutes the main economy and is the mainstay of the majority of the people. After Independence, most of the area fit for cultivation had been brought under plough and spectacular progress was made in the field of agriculture after the creation of Haryana. The problem of greater production of foodgrains and cash crops is intimately connected with the provision of better irrigation facilities on the one hand and measures of flood control on the other. Animal husbandry, fishery and forestry play a subsidiary but an important part in the economy of the district. This chapter deals with vital features relating mainly to agricultural production.

Land Utilization

The table below shows the utilization of land since 1984-85 to 1987-88 :—

(Thousand hectares)

Classification of area	Year			
	1984-85	1985-86	1986-87	1987-88
1. Total area according to village papers	218	222	222	222
2. Forests	8	8	8	8
3. Land put to non-agricultural uses	17	10	10	10
4. Barren and unculturable land	1	5	5	4
5. Permanent Pastures and other grazing lands	2	7	7	7
6. Culturable waste	10	6	6	6
7. Current fallow land	7	14	8	9
8. Net Area sown	172	171	177	176
9. Area sown more than once	84	77	86	48
10. Total cropped area	256	248	263	224

During 1987-88, the total land of the district measured 2,22,000 hectares, of which the area of 8,000 hectares (3.67 per cent) was under forests, 10,000 hectares (4.59 per cent) put to non-agricultural uses, 4,000 hectares barren and unculturable land, 6,000 hectares (2.70 per cent) culturable waste, 9,000 hectares current fallow land and the remaining 1,76,000 hectares (79.27 per cent) was the net area sown ; of which an area of 48,000 hectares (21.62 per cent) was sown more than once.

Forests.—The forests mainly consist of waste strips on sides of the roads, canals and railways. In 1987-88, 8 thousand hectares of land was under forests in the district. The same figures of the forest area stood during 1979-80.

Cultivated Area.—In revenue terminology, land is termed as cultivated if it has been sown even once during the previous four harvests. Cultivated area comprises current fallows and net area sown. During 1979-80, the area of current fallow land was of 10 thousand hectares but it reduced to 9 thousand hectares during 1987-88. With the growing trend for intensive cultivation, the practice of taking crops from the same plots successfully for a number of years is coming into vogue. There was an increase of 2 thousand hectares in the net area sown from 1979-80 to 1987-88. The area sown more than once was 84 thousand hectares in 1984-85 which went down to 48 thousand hectares during 1987-88. Every effort was made to utilize every strip of land for growing crops despite the pressure of growing population for non-agricultural uses.

The position pertaining to the category of land put to non-agricultural use decreased during 1984-85 to 1987-88.

The Government is taking keen interest to ensure the cultivation of every available piece of land. To achieve this object it applied the East Punjab Utilization of Lands Act, 1949, and threatened to take away from the owners of the lands which they were not cultivating. The Panchayats also have started using their lands for cultivation. The Governmental agencies are also encouraging the panchayats and individuals to bring cultivable waste under cultivation by advancing loans for the purchase of tractors and implements and for sinking of wells and tubewells.

Water logging.—Water-logging is a serious problem affecting the productivity of the land which supports only some aquatic plants like grass and weeds. The following factors mainly contribute to water-logging :—

1. The worst condition of water-logging appears just after rains. It becomes a menace in the unlined canal irrigated area due to seepage and in the areas along the drains which overflow during the rainy season. The railways, roads and canals restrict the natural clearance of water during monsoon which results in the sub-merging of a large area under water.

2. The poor internal and surface drainage also causes water-logging. The water-logged area generally develops into alkine land where no crops can grow. As a sequence to water-logging, the land is spoiled by *thur*¹ *kallar* and *sem*. The cultivated area which owing to sub-soil moisture has become unfit for cultivation, or is badly affected that it does not produce more than a four anna crop, is classed as *sem*.

The water-logged area in which the water table is only 0—5 feet is a serious problem. The water table between 5—10 feet indicates the danger zone. There has been an alarming rise in the water table in the area during three decades and in areas adjoining the canals it is generally between 5—10 feet. The rise of water table leads to the appearance of *thur* on the surface of the soil—followed by *sem*.

An area of 464 acres became uncultivable by 1959 in the Gohana tahsil alone and similarly a considerable area became unfit for cultivation in Sonipat tahsil. The area of *thur* and *sem* in the district during 1988 was 5,000 hectares.

The total area under water-logging in the district was 28,898 hectares during 1988-89.

AGRICULTURE

Set-up of Agriculture Department.—The Agriculture Department in this district is headed by the Deputy Director of Agriculture under World Bank Programme Project Scheme, who is responsible to the Director of Agriculture, Haryana, Chandigarh. He is assisted by 3 Agricultural Officers, i.e. SMS (T&I), QCI and ASO at district level and 2 SDAOs at Sub-Division level at Sonipat and Gohana. Each SDAO has a team of Agricultural Officers, viz. SMS (PP), SMS (Agro), SMS (Trg.). The SMS (H) has also been posted at Sonipat as this sub-division has sufficient area under vegetables. For implementation of Agriculture Production Programme, 8 CAOs in Sonipat Sub-division and 4 CAOs in Gohana Sub-Division have been provided and each CAO has been provided with 8 Base level workers for the guidance of the farmers.

1. *Thur* is a white or ash-coloured material consisting of harmful salts. It seems to subside after rains, but crispness of the crust forming over the powdered earth beneath, betrays its existence. *Kallar* is also classed with *thur*. There is not much to distinguish the one from the other in appearance.

Recommended steps for Improving Agricultural land

In almost all the blocks of the district, there is problem of salinity, alkalinity and salinity-alkalinity. To make the saline soils fit for cultivation, growing of salt resistant crops and levelling is recommended. It is proving quite useful in improving the soil.

Since 1979-80, the progress of land reclamation was under operation with the help of HLRDC. In 1980-81, 75 per cent subsidy was given to small farmers upto land holding of 7.5 acres and 50 per cent to others and it resulted in the reclamation of 361 acres of land with the use of 643 metric tonnes of Gypsum. Bunding and levelling is also practised to reclaim alkaline soils.

The number of watering and fertilizer requirement of major crops are given below :—

Crop	No. of watering	Doses of fertilizer (Kg./Ha.)		
		Nitrogen	Phosphate	Potash
Paddy (Dwarf)	15—20 irrigations (Dwarf)	120	60	60
(Tall)	are necessary to mature the crop (Tall) after transplanting	60	30	..
Bajra (Hybrid)	One (for the normal year during September)	120	60	..
Irrigated				
Sugarcane (Plant Crop and Ratoon Crop)	Irrigate of 10 days intervals during pre-monsoon and at 25 days intervals during post-monsoon period	150	..	..
Wheat (High Yielding Irrigated)	5 to 6 (22, 45, 65, 85, 105 and 120 after sowing)	120	60	30

The main responsibility of agricultural development is that of the Deputy Director of Agriculture and the Agricultural Officers/Agricultural Inspectors working under him.

The Agriculture Department guides the farmers in the latest technological advances in agricultural production. These include intensive methods of cultivation for higher production per unit area through new cropping patterns suited to their conditions. These also comprise preparation of crop plans, control of various pests and diseases affecting agricultural crops and

gardens, use of fertilizers and good seeds and laying out of demonstration plots to show to the cultivators the superiority of new strains and agronomic practices recommended for the district. The Agricultural Inspectors impart training and education to the farmers in their respective areas on matters relating to improved techniques resulting in better management for getting more production, use of improved seeds, fertilizers, improved agricultural implements and appropriate agricultural practices.

Training of all the functionaries is organised. In every crop season, an officers' workshop is arranged in H.A.U. (Haryana Agricultural University) for mutual discussions to solve field problems and to acquaint officials with the latest technology results available in the university. Immediately thereafter, a district training camp is organised at district headquarters for the benefit of the whole extension agency of Agriculture Department and the allied functionaries. They are given training in technology and campaign strategy to be followed in the particular season. The training facilities are further extended in the shape of block level training camps and the training of farmers in villages. For intensifying the training efforts, village to village mass contact programmes are organised through teams of extension agencies and H.A.U. experts. Likewise at the time of sowing, village to village demonstration programmes based on the full package of practices are conducted in every crop season. A follow-up programme is also pursued to achieve maximum results. Necessary inputs like seeds, fertilizers and pesticides are made available at convenient supply points.

Besides, the Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar established a Krishi Gyan Kendra (Farm Advisory Service Centre) at Sonipat in 1974 under the overall charge of Senior Scientist known as Co-ordinator. He is assisted by a team of Subject Matter Specialists in different fields such as Agronomy, Soil Science, Horticulture, Vegetable crops, Plant Pathology, Entomology, Farm Management, Agriculture Engineering, Animal Sciences, Veterinary Sciences and Home Sciences for disseminating the latest technology in their respective subjects to the farmers and rural folk. The Subject Matter Specialists at district level organise training camps, demonstrations, field days, Kisan melas, campaigns, exhibitions and film shows. They also organise adaptive research trials at farmers' fields for testing the technology generated by the scientists in different departments of the University. Field days in different crops are organized for demonstrating the potential of the latest package of practice to the farmers. Cattle shows, vegetable and fruit shows, calf rallies and clinical camps are organized and the winners are awarded prizes. The district has developed a very intensive vegetables growing area by adopting the latest agricultural technology of Hisar Agricultural University. The

increase in yield of the crops in the district is the ultimate result of the work carried out by Krishi Gyan Kendra and the Agriculture Department of the State.

At present the Kendra has adopted 3 villages, namely ; Gopalpur, Khizarpur Ahir and Ahmadpur Majra under 'Lab to Land' programme and one village, Farmana has been selected as a model village under 20-point programme. Intensive agricultural, Animal and Veterinary Sciences and Home Science Development activities are carried out in these villages and they serve as models for the farmers of other areas.

Soils

The district is situated on the western side of the Yamuna river and the whole of area forms a part of Indo- Gangetic Alluvial plain. The soil of this district varies from sandy to clayey loam. On an average 67 per cent soil is sandy loam, 25.5 per cent sandy and 7.25 per cent clay. Gohana block contains maximum sandy loam which forms about 79 per cent of the total soil texture. In Kharkhoda block, loam and clay soils are to the extent of 45 per cent and 15 per cent respectively.

The soil is deficient in organic matter in almost all blocks and there is a problem of salinity and alkalinity also. The sub-soil water is mostly brackish, unfit for irrigation. However, the sub-soil water in the north block, i.e. the Delhi-Ambala railway line is quite fit for irrigation.

Depending upon the period of alluvial deposition, the area is sub-divided into the following categories :—

- (i) Recent alluvial plain or khadar
- (ii) Old alluvial plain or Bangar

Alluvial is composed of clay, silt and sand. Yamuna alluvial plain is nearly level and is formed by thick sediments brought by the river. The extent of sand dunes is less than the undulating land slope which constitutes about 4,500 hectares. The low lying area of undulating land is affected by the problem of salinity and alkalinity.

In general, the drainage of the area is from north to south-east. The flood water is drained into the river Yamuna through various channels. Most of the area is sub-merged under water during rainy season.

Old alluvial plains are well drained except basins. The recent alluvial plains is undulated with 1 to 3 per cent slope and its height from sea level (MSL) ranges from 215 to 222 metres and the old alluvial plains is nearly levelled with a height range above MSL 226 to 229 metres.

The soil has good water holding capacity. Paddy, wheat, sugarcane and *bajra* are generally grown. The soils are fit for intensive cultivation.

Crops

The crops grown in the district are divided into two main categories, viz. *kharif* and *rabi*, locally called *samni* and *sadu*. The former is the summer season harvest and the latter winter season harvest. Any crop which does not strictly fall within these two harvests is known as a *zaid* crop and its harvest is called the *zaid kharif* and *zaid rabi*. *Toria* (an oilseed) is cultivated as *zaid kharif*; vegetables, melon, tobacco and green fodder as *zaid rabi*.

The major *kharif* crops of the district are paddy, *bajra* and sugarcane which occupy about 17 per cent, 22 per cent, and 17 per cent respectively of the total cropped area. The other *kharif* crops are *jowar*, maize, cotton and *moong*. The *Jowar* and *gwar* are mainly used as fodder crop. To grow paddy and sugarcane is economical and these crops do well in sandy loam soils. Vegetables, onion, *arhar* and *mash* also deserve mention.

The major *rabi* crop is wheat which occupies about 85 per cent of the total cropped area. The other *rabi* crops are gram, barley, oil seeds, *rabi* pulses and vegetables.

Bajra, *gwar* and *jowar* (during *kharif*) are comparatively grown under barani conditions and grow well in sandy soils. Similarly, gram, oil seed and barley which are *rabi* crops, are also suitable for these soils. The high yielding varieties of wheat cover 85 per cent of the total area and are grown in irrigated areas. The cotton cultivation has also been introduced in Gohana sub-division of the district. An area of 3,000 to 4,000 hectares was under these crops in the district. The table below gives the details about the sowing and harvesting of *kharif* and *rabi* crops :—

Name of crop	Soil required	Time of sowing	Time of harvesting
Kharif Crops :			
Paddy	Loam clay/loam	15th May to 15th July	October-November
Bajra	Sandy loam sandy	June to July	Middle of September
Gwara	Sandy loam, loam	July to middle of August	September to November
Moong	Sandy loam/loam/clay loam	April to July	June to September

1	2	3	4
Arhar	Sandy loam/loam	June to July	October to November
Jowar	Sandy loam	April to July	July to September
Maize	Sandy/sandy loam/loam	June to July	September
Cotton	Sandy loam/sandy	April	September to November
Sugarcane	Loam/clay loam	Middle of February to Middle of April	End of November to end of April
Rabi Crops			
Wheat	Sandy/sandy loam/loam and clay loam	October to December	April
Gram	do	October	March
Barley	Sandy/sandy loam	October to December	March April
Rabi (Oilseeds)	Sandy/sandy loam/loam	September to October	March

Production of principal crops during 1986-87 to 1988-89 is given in the Table V of Appendix.

Cropping Pattern

The cropping pattern adopted in the district during 1986-87 to 1987-88 is given below :—

Name of crop	Percentage of area under each crop	
	1986-87	1987-88
Kharif		
Paddy	24	18
Jowar	16	16
Maize	3	1
Bajra	10	5

Cotton	2	4
Sugarcane	10	16
Kh. Pulses	3	3
Vegetables	4	4
Others	16	14
Fallow	12	19

Total :

100

100

Rabi

Wheat	85	83
Gram	3	2
Barley	1	1
Oilseeds	4	4
Rabi Pulses	1	1
Vegetables	2	2
Others	1	1
Fallow	3	6

Total :

100

100

Rotation of Crops.—The cultivators of the district have long been aware of the advantages of crops rotation. The general rotation of crops followed by the farmers in canal irrigated, well irrigated and *barani* areas is as follows :

Canal irrigated

bajra-wheat or gram and sarson

paddy-wheat or gram or wheat and gram

jowar-gram

cotton-wheat-*gwara*-wheat

gwar (for fodder or grain)-sugarcane

Well-irrigated

maize-wheat-fodder

chillies-wheat or onion

gwar fodder-paddy-onion or vegetables

Barani areas

jowar or bajra or *gwara*-gram and sarson

jowar or bajra or *gwara*-gram or barley and sarson

jowar or bajra or *gwara*-fallow

Fodder Crops

The main fodder crop is *jowar*. It is grown during *kharif* and covers 16 per cent of the total cropped area. When fed green, *jowar* is called *rhari* and when harvested after ripening and turned into hay, it is called *karb* or *karbi*. Generally *Jowar* is not sown grain, if seed setting takes place then the grain is taken. In addition, *barseem* is the fodder crop during *rabi* season and is taken as green fodder. Oat is also sown during *rabi* season and is taken as fodder. But only marginal area is brought under this crop.

Foodgrain Crops

Gram, wheat, rice, *bajra* and maize are covered under this category in the district.

Gram.—This is a *rabi* foodgrain crop and is mostly sown in the areas of Gohana tahsil. It is generally sown after harvesting *jowar* and *bajra* if some moisture is still available in the land. It forms a good diet both for human beings and cattle. It is consumed right from the time of germination to grain development stage and is used for a variety of purposes. The area under this crop during 1987-88 was 2.0 thousand hectares. The average yield of gram during 1987-88 was 331 kg. per hectare. It rose to 936 kg. in 1988-89.

Wheat.—This is the principal *rabi* foodgrain crop. It is grown mostly under irrigated conditions. It is the main crop of the district. The main varieties sown in the district are : *Kalyan*, *Sona* and *Sonalika*.

The area under this crop was 124 thousand hectares in 1987-88. The average yield of wheat during 1987-88 was 2,724 Kg. per hectare. It rose to 3,013 Kg. per hectare in 1988-89.

Rice (Paddy).—It is mostly grown in the water-logged areas of Sonipat and Gohana tahsils. *Jhona 349* is grown in soil of average quality and *basmati 370*, which is a fine variety, is grown in rich soil where a plentiful supply of water is available. The area under the crop during 1988-89 was 29 thousand hectares. The average yield in 1988-89 was 1957 Kg. per hectare.

Bajra.—In the rainfed areas this crop is more suitable than any other crop. It gives grain and fodder to the farmers. *Bajra* constitutes an important item of food during the winter season. But due to low price and high cost of cultivation, the farmers do not want to increase area under its cultivation. The area under this crop during 1988-89 was 13 thousand hectares. The average yield of *bajra* during 1988-89 was 793 Kg. per hectare.

Maize.—It is chiefly grown in the Sonipat tahsil. The new variety of hybrid maize is becoming quite popular with the farmers. During 1988-89, the area under its cultivation was 2.00 thousand hectares. The average yield of maize during 1988-89 was 385 Kg. per hectare.

Commercial Crops

Sugarcane.—It is an important cash crop of the district and is grown mostly under irrigated conditions. Due to installation of sugar factory and an extension of irrigation facilities, the farmers grow sugarcane crop in abundance. Greater emphasis is being laid on both early and late varieties in order to extend the factory working season. The main varieties sown in the district are: CO. 1148, CO. 767 and Haryana No. 3. The area under this crop during 1988-89 was 13 thousand hectares. The average yield of sugarcane (gur) during 1988-89 was 5,293 Kg. per hectare.

Chillies.—Chillies are sown in the *khadar* area of the Sonipat tahsil where sufficient well irrigation is available. The area under this crop during 1987-88 was 0.5 thousand hectares.

Mushroom.—It is felt that Sonipat is heading for mushroom revolution. The cropping pattern is changing rapidly in the areas adjoining Delhi with more and more farmers switching over to the cultivation of vegetables, especially mushroom. A large number of schemes are being executed by the District Rural Development Agency (DRDA) to promote the cultivation of mushroom in the district. These schemes ensured speedy transmission of benefit of production to the farmers. There are many farmers who bring the seed from Solan (Himachal Pradesh) for the cultivation of mushroom.

Though Sonipat is the biggest market for mushroom in Haryana due to its proximity to Delhi, suitable transport facilities do not exist for the growers to take their produce to the market. Besides, lack of cold storage has added to

the losses of the producers. As already stated, there is also shortage of quality seed and credit facilities. Mushroom worth Rs. 50 lakh was produced during 1986-87. In 1989, there were about 300 growers producing 600 tonnes of Button mushrooms in the Sonipat area alone. There were over 170 growers in Bhadana and Kakroi villages, both within 10 km of Sonipat.

Oilseeds.—*Sarson*, *toria* and *tarmira*(*tira*) are the oil seed crops of the district. *Sarson* is generally sown as a pure crop or in rows with gram in *barani* areas and in rows with wheat in irrigated areas. *Tarmira* is generally sown as a pure crop mostly in poor land and also in rows in gram fields. *Toria*, however, is grown only in irrigated areas. Linseed is minor oil-seed crop.

Different varieties of oil-seed crops are listed below:—

Crop	Seed per hectare (Kg.)	Variety
Taramira	.. 5	Selection-A
Raya	.. 5	Parkash, RL-18 Varuna, RH-30
Rapeseed	.. 5	BSH-L and local

Fruit Crops and Gardens

A variety of fruits like malta-orange, sweetlime, *kaghzi* lime, mango, grape and *ber* are grown in the district. The yield of different fruits in the old gardens was *ber* 42 per cent, *anar* 18 per cent, *amrud* 15 per cent, citrus 10 per cent, mango 10 per cent and other 10 per cent. The table below shows the yield of fruits:—

Fruits	Average yield per tree
Malta (Orange)	.. 250 to 300 fruits
Sweet lime	.. 200 fruits
Kaghzi lime	.. 33 Kg.
Mango	.. 40 to 80 Kg.
<i>Amrud</i> (guava)	.. 40 to 60 Kg.
<i>Anar</i> (Pomegranate)	.. 40 to 100 Kg.
Grapes	.. 40 to 80 Kg.
<i>Ber</i>	.. 75 to 100 Kg.

In 1950, two garden colony co-operative societies were established at Panchi Gujran and Kharkhoda. The fruit trees that receive prominence in

these garden colonies are malta, mango, kaghzi lime, sweet lime and guava. There is a good scope for gardens in the district.

The *khadar* area is suitable for mango cultivation while the rest of the district is suitable for guava, *anar* and other fruits. Now some cultivators are also trying for grapes. Under the D.R.D.A. scheme, 80,000 plants have been distributed amongst the cultivators.

There are two planting seasons, viz. spring (February-March) and Monsoon (July to October) for evergreen plants like malta, sweet lime, *kaghazi* lime, mango, guava and *ber*, while the planting of deciduous plants like pomegranate, grape and phalsa is done in January-February.

The area under fruits during 1987-88 was as follows:—

<u>Name of the fruits</u>	<u>Area (Hectares)</u>
1. Citrus	220
2. Mangoes	130
3. Peaches and pears	100
4. Other fresh fruits	673

Vegetables

With the increase of irrigation facilities, the cultivation of vegetables has increased considerably. The increase is notable particularly in or around the towns and adjoining villages as marketing facilities are easily available. The eating habits of the people in the villages are also changing and vegetables are becoming an important part of their diet. Consequently, a majority of farmers in villages having water enough for irrigation have started growing vegetables not only to meet their own requirements, but also to make additional money out of it. The increase in production of vegetables in the district is borne out by the fact that at present a large quantity of vegetables is being daily supplied to Delhi from Sonipat, Rai and Murthal.

According to their growing season, the vegetables are divided into main groups, i.e. (i) Summer vegetables (ii) Winter vegetables. Summer vegetables include *tar* or *kakri*, *ghia*, *kadoo*, *tori*, *Petha*, *tinda*, *karela*, brinjal, tomato, *Bhindi* (lady finger) and sweet potato. Winter vegetables include a wide range of vegetables such as (a) root crops like radish, turnip, carrot; (b) and leafy crops, like *Palak*, *methi*, cabbage. Recent researches carried in the improvement of vegetables by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi and Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar introduced many new varieties which not only gave higher yield over the old type but also improved their quality and nutritive value. The area under vegetables (potatoes, sweet potatoes and onion) was 5,400 hectares in 1987-88.

PROMOTION OF SCIENTIFIC AGRICULTURE THROUGH ADMINISTRATIVE MACHINERY

Besides land and irrigation, the agricultural operation depend on many resources which must be scientifically exploited in the face of growing need of foodgrains. Scientific agriculture today requires knowledge of various kinds based on the application of fundamental research to local conditions. It is the responsibility of the State to make this knowledge available, to encourage its understanding and to provide financial and other facilities to cultivators who are keen to use scientific methods in their cultivation to a limited extent. Any notable achievement in this direction on the part of Government as well as cultivators will be revolutionary in character because so far the Indian cultivator has been tradition-bound. Today, agriculture has assumed national importance, as India like other countries cannot hope to feed its growing millions without developing the means to produce enough food for all her people. The State involved on many fronts in an effort to improve all factors of scientific agriculture. To this end, Government has been spending a large sum of money to achieve self-sufficiency in food production so that India may not have to purchase large quantity of food from other countries.

The different Agricultural Development Officers/VEWS carry out work of agricultural production on the lines laid down by the Department of Agriculture. They educate the farmers in matters related to improved seeds, manures and fertilizers, agricultural implements, plant protection, horticulture, and scientific agricultural practices by laying out demonstration plots.

Besides, for technical guidance in the field of horticulture, one Agriculture Development Officer (Horticulture) was posted at Sonipat and another at Gohana.

The administrative machinery not only provides knowledge and practical demonstration but also administers financial and other help under various heads as provided by the State.

Agricultural Implements

The implements of the old type still in use are listed below:—

<u>Locally called</u>	<u>Meaning</u>
1. <i>Hal</i>	Plough
2. <i>Kuhari</i>	Hatchet
3. <i>Dikri</i>	Drag rake dragged by men for levelling high land
4. <i>Kasola</i>	Smaller mattock for weeding and hoeing

5. <i>Jeli</i>	Six-pronged fork
6. <i>Jua</i>	Yoke
7. <i>Dranti</i>	Sickle
8. <i>Kassi</i>	Large mattock spade
9. <i>Gori</i>	A dikri-like implement, but dragged by bullocks
10. <i>Santa</i>	Ox goad
11. <i>Maij or Sohaga</i>	Flat clod crusher
12. <i>Gandari</i>	Long handled chopper used for cutting sugar-cane, cotton sticks and bushes
13. <i>Khurpa</i>	Grass spade
14. <i>Kasola</i>	Large mattock for weeding and hoeing
15. <i>Jelt-Chausang</i>	Four pronged fork
16. <i>Chhaj</i>	Winnowing basket
17. <i>Baguri</i>	Small khurpa like implement
18. <i>Orna</i>	Seed drilling tube
19. <i>Jandra</i>	Used for wat bandi in the irrigated areas
20. <i>Tipya</i>	A wooden stand used while winnowing wheat, etc.
21. <i>Gandasa</i>	Fodder-cutter
22. <i>Gadi</i>	Cart

The farmers are now taking to improved agricultural implements like iron plough (Haryana Plough), cotton drill, bar harrow, tirphali, etc. The tractors are also in great demand both for agricultural operations and transporting agricultural produce.

Any improvement in agriculture is inconceivable without a corresponding improvement in the implements used. The modern implements are also being popularised by the Government through different schemes. A brief description of important agricultural implements in common use is given below:

Plough.—In this district, ploughing of the fields is done with the help of bullocks. The wooden and iron ploughs are being used by the people. The iron or wooden plough scratches the soil upto 4 or 5 inches. The chief defect in

it lies in the fact that it leaves ridges of unploughed land between the V-shaped furrows which it makes. The plough also fails to eradicate weeds properly. In the small land holdings and fragmented and non-contiguous plots, the plough is very much suited and it does not disturb the level of the land. It consists of three major parts: the beam (*hala*), wooden body (*hal*) and the coulter (*Panhari*) and *kuis*. In 1987-88, there were 43,842 ploughs (35,185 wooden and 8,657 iron).

Tractor.—As already stated that by and large cultivation is done with the help of animal power (bullocks and *Jhotas*). Although tractor is also appearing rapidly. Due to small land holdings, the farmers have to use tractors on hire basis. Only big landlords have their own tractors. These tractors are also used for pumping out water from tubewells during the power failure or shortage of electricity. The number of tractors during 1988-89 was 7,272.

Ghani (Oil expellers).—The oil expellers have been installed privately by the people. The total number of *ghanis* was 149; 122 having the capacity of 5 Kg. or above and 27 having the capacity of less than 5 Kg.

Sugar cane crushers.—Although there is a sugar mill in the district yet there are many sugarcane crushers. During 1982-83, there was an area of 18,000 hectares under sugarcane crop. The farmers who do not fall in the mill zone area, crush their sugarcane. During 1988-89, there were 271 sugarcane crushers in the district. The people mostly use iron-made crushers; being used with the help of power or diesel engines.

With the popularity of tractor in the use of agricultural operations, the trend of mechanized farming is moving fast in the district. The Haryana Land Reclamation and Development Corporation is also extending help to the farmers in the mechanized farming. The Haryana Agro-Industries Corporation has 2 service centres, one at Sonipat and another at Gohana. The centre at Sonipat has one combined harvester which is available at the harvesting season on reasonable rates.

Seeds

Good seed is the basis of successful agriculture. The Agriculture Department pays much attention to ensure the multiplication and supply of seed of improved quality. The better yielding varieties of seeds recommended for this district are as under:—

Kharif

Bajra

.. BJ-104, HS-I

Moong

.. Varsha, H-45

<i>Gwara</i>	.. FS-227
Groundnut	.. PB No. 1
<i>Arhar</i>	.. UPAD-120, Prabhat
<i>Rabi</i>	
Wheat	.. HD-2209, HD-1553, HD-2204, WH-147, WH-157, C-306
Barley	.. C-164, C-138, BG-25, BH-75
Gram	.. C-235
Raya	.. L-18, Parkash, Raya, Varuna, RJ-30
<i>Sarson</i>	.. BSH-I
<i>Taramira</i>	.. Selection No. 1
<i>Toria</i>	.. Sangam

The district is notified under the East Punjab Improved Seeds and Seedlings Act, 1949 under which it is an offence to sow varieties of seeds, particularly of wheat and cotton, other than those on the approved list of the State Agriculture Department.

The seed farms at different places are functioning in the district for the improvement of quality seeds. The details of the seed farms are as under:—

Location	Year of establishment	Area (Acres)	Crops sown for seeds
Panchi Gujran	.. 1959	24.77	Wheat, gram, <i>bajra</i> , cotton
Kharkhoda	.. 1958	26.37	Ditto
Rai (Govt.)	.. 1977	48.5	Wheat, paddy, oil-seeds

The table below shows the progressive increase in seeds distributed during 1986-87 to 1988-89:—

Year	Improved seeds distributed		(Tonnes)
	Paddy	Wheat	Bajra
1986-87	110	1,122	10
1987-88	45	707	4
1988-89	37	650	5

MANURES AND CHEMICAL FERTILIZERS.

It is a well recognised fact that different crops, while growing, remove various plant nutrients in substantial quantities from the soil. The continued deterioration of plant food elements from soil leads to low soil fertility and lower agricultural yields. It is, therefore, essential that plant nutrients are replenished through the increased use of manures and fertilizers so that crops continue to give good yields.

Compost manure.—Farmyard manure or cattle dung manure is an all round good manure for the maintenance and improving the soil fertility. However, the farmyard manure commonly used by the cultivators is poor both in quality and quantity. This is largely due to faulty method of its preparation and incomplete utilisation of the useful ingredients contained in cattle dung. In the context of emphasis on high yielding varieties programmes, it has been inevitable that larger quantities of good quality manure are produced in the villages; Department of Agriculture is making all-out efforts in this respect. For this reason, the entire district was notified under the East Punjab Conservation of Manure Act, 1949, whereunder the farmers are required to conserve the cattle dung and other vegetative wastes in pits of proper dimensions.

Another important source from which large quantity of good quality manure could be obtained in the refuse of urban areas. Almost all the municipalities in the district have taken up the work of composting of urban wastes.

Green manuring.—This is a very important for soil fertility as it directly adds nitrogen to the soil. Experiments have revealed that an increase of about one quintal of foodgrains per acre results through green manuring. It also improves the soil texture by the addition of humus or organic matter. The addition of organic matter improves both heavy and sandy soils; for it has a binding effect on the loose particles of sandy soil and makes the tough and heavy soil friable. The water holding capacity of the soil is also increased. Further, it creates better conditions for the increase of useful bacteria in the soil. Green manuring with sunn-hemp, *gwara* and *dhaincha* is recommended. Practice of green manuring is being popularised by distributing of free seed packets of *dhaincha*.

Chemical Fertilizers.—The soils in the district are alkaline in nature and poor in organic matter. So, apart from green manuring, chemical fertilizers are also very essential for increasing crop yields. Following a large number of field demonstrations, farmers are now becoming keen to use fertilizers. *Taccavi* loans are given for purchase of fertilizers and their supply is arranged by the Government at controlled rates. Distribution of fertilizers is done by the

Haryana Agricultural Marketing Federation through agricultural societies. The supply of fertilizers to the distribution points is regulated by the Deputy Director of Agriculture by co-ordinating this programme between Extension Agency and Supply Agency. The following data regarding the distribution of chemical fertilizers show that its use is becoming increasingly popular:

Year		Chemical fertilizers distributed (Tonnes)		
		Nitrogenous	Phosphatic	Potash
1986-87	..	16,875	4,347	119
1987-88	..	18,531	5,666	186
1988-89	..	20,678	6,829	184

Agricultural Co-operatives

The agriculturist stands in need of help of various kinds during the course of his multiple operations. If he can obtain short, medium or long term credit when required, improved implements, adequate quantity of fertilizers, improved seeds, insecticides, pesticides, irrigation facilities and facilities for storage and marketing of his agricultural produce, he may be able to get the best out of his efforts. It is only through agricultural cooperatives that he can get all these facilities in time and in a reasonable manner. If he goes a step further to engage in cooperative farming, his scanty resources can be pooled with those of other farmers in order to bring all the participants the gains of large-scale intensive farming.

Agricultural Pests and Diseases

The crops are occasionally exposed to damages from an immense variety of diseases and pests. Some pests and diseases are listed below:

(1) Crop Pest and Diseases

- (a) Sugarcane top-borer
- (b) Sugarcane stem-borer
- (c) Sugarcane Pyrilla
- (d) Gurdaspur borer
- (e) Cotton jassid
- (f) Rice bug

- (g) Sarson aphid
- (h) Gram cut-worm
- (i) Loose smut of wheat
- (j) Toka or Phirkala
- (k) Covered smut of barley

(2) Fruit Pests and Diseases

- (a) Citrus pyrrilla
- (b) Lemon caterpillar
- (c) Mango hopper
- (d) Mango mealy bug
- (e) Citrus canker

(3) Vegetable Pests

- (a) Red pumpkin beetle
- (b) Brinjal hadda
- (c) Potato and Bhindi jassid
- (d) Singhara beetle

(4) Store Grains Pests

- (a) *Khapra*
- (b) *Susrt*
- (c) *Dhora*

(2) Miscellaneous Pests

- (a) Field rats
- (b) Jackals

(6) Obnoxious Weeds

- (a) *Pohli*

The Agricultural Department is advocating through intensive propaganda control measures to reduce the damage. Fumigation work is being done by the Department on a large scale by the staff working under the Fumigation Scheme.

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

The animal husbandry activities in the district are looked after by the Epidemiologist, animal husbandry, who is assisted by 22 Veterinary Surgeons, 23 Stock Assistants and 37 Veterinary Compounders. The main officers at district level of this Department are S.D.O. (A.H.), Gohana, S.D.O. (A.H.), Sonipat, Assistant Rinderpest officer, Sonipat and Project Officer, Research Disease surveillance, Sonipat. Animal husbandry activities relate to Cattle breeding, artificial insemination work, control of the out break of Contagious diseases amongst livestock, improvement of livestock and provision of veterinary aid.

The major part of population is engaged in animal husbandry which is next to agriculture. As the human population is sharply increasing day by day so the demand of milk, eggs and meat is also increasing. In order to meet the increasing requirement of milk, eggs and meat, the department is taking up various livestock development programmes.

The district possesses a fairly large number of livestock including cattle, buffaloes, horses, and ponies, goats and pigs. The livestock population in the district as per 1977 and 1982 Censuses was as under:—

Particular	Numebr (in Lakhs)				
	1977	Per-centage	1982	Per-centage	
1. Cattle ..	1.64	36.10	1.22	26.0	
2. Buffaloes ..	2.34	51.5	2.44	51.9	
3. Sheep ...	0.16	3.5	8.26	5.5	
4. Goats ...	0.09	2.0	0.16	3.4	
5. Pigs ...	0.21	4.6	0.23	4.9	
6. Camels ...	0.01	0.2	0.01	0.2	
7. Horses, Ponies ...	0.03	0.6	0.03	0.6	
8. Donkeys and Mules —	0.07	1.5	0.05	1.1	
9. Poultry —	1.07	0.00	0.37	—	
10. Others —	0.30	—	..	6.4	

On comparing the livestock population of 1982 with respect of 1977, it is observed that there is an increase in each category of livestock but there is a decrease in cattle population during 1982 as compared to 1977 census.

Cattle and Buffaloes

Animals, especially cattle, play an important role in the economy of the district. The essential equipment of the peasant-farmer includes a pair of oxen or buffaloes to do the ploughing and to draw his cart. Even though bullocks have been replaced by tractors, motor transport and electric power in some cases, yet many farmers, particularly the small cultivators, still depend upon them.

The Royal Commission on Agriculture in India remarked about cows in India that "in most parts of the world, they (cows) are valued for food and for milk; in India their primary purpose is draught for the plough or the cart. The religious veneration accorded to the cow by the Hindus is widely known. To at least half of the population of India the slaughter of the cow is prohibited and this outstanding fact governs the whole problem of improvement of cattle in this country. It is necessary to recognize the obligations under which the country stands to the cow and to her offspring, the trusty ox. without the ox no cultivation would be possible; without the ox, no produce could be transported".¹ This is largely true even today.

The Sonipat district has a long history of cattle rearing. Before 1820, large herds of cattle were kept by individual landowners. As the grazing area was abundant, the stocking of grazing lands was usually light; therefore, the question of a real fodder famine grew acute only when rains failed for two to three years in succession. In case of a severe famine, it was customary to move the cattle to the banks of the Yamuna or wherever grazing was available after the local fodder reserves had been exhausted. In a way famines did good to the quality of the breed by compelling owners to select their best cattle to be sent to places where fodder was more plentiful. The relatively poorer cattle were left behind to die in large numbers. This periodic, but vigorous, selection in those days was probably one of the most significant factors in keeping up the quality of the cattle.

The history of cattle breeding after 1820 is closely connected with various economic factors such as famines, the spread of canal irrigation and the breaking up of grazing areas. Each of these factors in its own way hastened the decrease of feed and forage available. Whenever a period of scarcity occurred, both man and beast suffered, the latter much more. There are no accurate records of cattle mortality due to famines prior to 1800, but references to different famines in district songs and folklore give some idea of the extent of suffering and loss of cattle. The extensive breaking-up of grazing lands after 1840

1. Report of the Royal Commission on Agriculture in India, 1928 p. 169.

consequent on the introduction of flow irrigation greatly restricted the grazing grounds of the villages; the fodder-supply grown in the fields was barely sufficient for the yearly consumption of the cattle, and left but a small margin as reserve against drought.

In the beginning of the twentieth century the cattle of this district were reported to be famous on account of their fine conformation and size.¹

The district has the distinction of being one of the areas regarded as the home of *Murrah* and *Haryana* breeds. *Murrah* buffalo-cows are amongst the most efficient milk and butter-fat producers in India. They are reared for milk and *ghee* production in almost all the big cities and in rural areas. The best specimens of this breed in the district are found in the Gohana tahsil. Although average lactation yield in these herds varies from 1,500 to 2,000 Kg. The butter-fat content varies from 4 to 13 per cent, the average being about 7 per cent.

The *Murrah* buffalo-cow has a very deep massive frame with a comparatively light neck and head, short tightly curled horns, well-developed udders and long tail with white marking reaching the fetlock. While the popular colour is jet black, animals of brown colour are also found. The white markings on face and extremities common in *Nili* and *Ravi* buffaloes are not present in the true *Murrah*.

The bullocks are good work animals, particularly for fast ploughing and road transport. The typical mature males measure 1.42 to 1.45 meters in height behind the hump and weigh from 380 to 500 kg; while mature females measure 1.32 to 1.35 meters in height and weigh about 300 Kg. The head is carried high and gives them a graceful appearance. The popular colour is white or light grey. In some of the males particularly when entire, the head, neck, hump and quarters develop a dark grey colour, but this colour often changes to white on castration. The long and narrow face with a flat forehead and a well-marked bony prominence at the centre of the poll are the indications of purity of breed.

The cows are good milkers and for this reason they are very much in demand all over the country. Pedigree herds of this breed are maintained in Government farms.

MEASURES TO IMPROVE QUALITY OF CATTLE BREED

As early as 1897, the District Board, Rohtak recognised the importance of protection and improvement of animals. It maintained quality bulls and subsidised the breeding cows and buffaloes. Such work was continued and extended in various ways both by the local bodies and the Government.

1. *Rohtak District Gazetteer*, 1910, p. 111.

A key village scheme was started in 1958. Under the scheme, which was a centrally co-ordinated project aiming at the improvement of cattle and buffaloes in selected villages, pedigree bulls from the Government Livestock, Farm, Hisar, were provided. An artificial insemination centre was set-up at Sonipat. Bulls of superior quality were supplied at the centre. All unapproved bulls were castrated or removed from the key village block and no bull other than the selected one was allowed to breed.

Selected male calves born out of high yielding dams were taken up for subsidised rearing under the scheme. A subsidy of Rs. 15 per month was allowed to the owner of the selected calf till the calf was matured ($2\frac{1}{2}$ years). The Government had the first right to purchase such calves, when they matured, for its cattle development activities.

After the formation of the district in December, 1972, a comprehensive plan for increasing the milk production and working efficiency of cattle was launched. It envisaged systematically planned method for the best utilisation of superior germ-plasm obtained from superior bulls by its proper distribution throughout the district. Technique of artificial insemination is used to maximise the utility of available number of approved bulls through cross breeding in cows and selective breeding in buffaloes. Controlled breeding was progressively brought through the removal of scrub bulls in the area. Haryana bulls known for their high qualities are being extensively used for breeding. Besides, exotic semen is being used to meet the requirement of semen. Bulls of high quality are stationed at Sonipat from where semen is collected artificially. Additional cow-buffalo semen is brought from other semen banks of the State.

To provide breeding facilities effectively, 1 Regional Artificial Insemination Centre, 5 Stockman Centres, 13 Veterinary hospitals, 22 hospital-cum-breeding Centres and 41 Veterinary dispensaries were available in the district during 1988-89. The figures of artificial insemination done and calves born during 1986-87 to 1988-89 are given below :—

Year	(Figures in 000)			
	Artificial insemination done		Calves born	
	Cows	Buffaloes	Cows	Buffaloes
1986-87 ..	22	22	5	6
1987-88 ..	21	19	5	6
1988-89 ..	18	18	5	5

Sheep breeding.—According to 1982 Livestock Census, the sheep population in the district was 0.26 lakh. Sheep provide necessities of vital importance, e.g. meat for food, wool for clothing, skin for industrial enterprise and manure for agriculture. As the number of sheep in the district is small, so the sheep development work is looked after by the veterinary institutions functioning in the district.

Piggery development.—The pig population according to 1982 Census is 0.23 lakh in the district. To improve and develop piggery, the pigs produced at the government livestock farm at Hisar and Pig Breeding Farm at Ambala are supplied to the breeders at subsidised rates. The veterinary institutions functioning in the district also attend to such work.

Poultry farming.—According to 1982 Livestock Census, there were 0.37 lakh poultry birds. On account of its proximity to Delhi and Grand Trunk Road passing through it, the Sonipat district has a great potential for poultry development. The poultry and eggs find a ready market in Delhi. To develop the poultry, there are 2 Poultry Extension Centres and 1 Poultry Disease Diagnostic Laboratory. The breeders of the district are supplied W.L.H. chicks at subsidised rates either from Hatchery-cum-Poultry Farm, Hisar or Government Poultry Farm, Ambala. Mass-scale vaccination and debeaking are carried out at the Poultry Extension Centres and other veterinary institutions.

ANIMAL DISEASES AND VETERINARY HOSPITALS

Animal diseases.—The common diseases prevalent in the district are rinderpest or cattle plague (*birla*, *wah*, *mata* and *khuni dusr*), haemorrhagic septicaemia (*ghotu*, *gal ghotu* or *gal sujan*), black quarter or black leg (*saraha*, *patsuja*), feet and mouth swelling (*muuh khur*, *rera chapka*) and parasitic infections. These diseases are controlled with prophylactic vaccinations and curative measures. Since regular campaigns for inoculation and vaccination against these diseases are conducted, none of these has taken any epidemic form. With the introduction of Rinderpest Eradication Project in 1958, the incidence of this disease has been much reduced.

Surgical treatment developed by Haryana Agriculture University, Hisar has proved very useful. The university provides Animal Disease Investigation Staff and diagnostic service to the field veterinarians and livestock owners. In case the field staff are not able to diagnose the disease, the matter is referred to the disease investigation staff of the University. After conducting the laboratory examination, the suitable preventive and curative treatment is recommended for the control of diseases.

Veterinary hospitals.—At the time of the creation of the district (1992), there were 12 veterinary hospitals and 6 dispensaries in the district. Now (on

March 31, 1989), there is a net work of 13 veterinary hospitals, 22 hospitals-cum-breeding centres, 41 veterinary dispensaries, 1 regional artificial insemination centre and 5 stockman centres. The list of veterinary institutions may be seen in the Table VI of Appendix.

During 1988-89, the number of Veterinary personnel in the district was 282 (Veterinary Surgeons 34, Vetey. Live stock and Development Assistants-97, Dressers and Farriers-I and Class IV-150.)

A veterinary hospital generally functions under the charge of Veterinary Surgeon, who is assisted by a Veterinary Compounder and Stock Assistant besides other class IV attendants. A stockman centre is run by a Stock Assistant with the help of Class IV attendants.

During 1988-89, 1.23 Lakh animals were treated in the various veterinary institutions. The details about number of inoculations and vaccinations performed in the district are given below :—

(in Lakhs)

Name of disease	Number of animals vaccinated and inoculated
1. Rinderpest	1.02
2. Haemorrhagic-Septicaemia	3.67
3. Black quarter	0.04
4. Ranikhet	0.47
5. Fowl pox	1.22
6. Sheep pox	1.65
7. Foot-Mouth	0.31
8. Swine fever	0.06
9. Enterotomia	0.16
10. Others	0.89

Slaughter houses.—There are three slaughter houses in the district, located at Sonipat, Gohana and Ganaur. The animals (goats, sheep and pigs) are

inspected by the Veterinary Surgeon before and after their slaughter, to ensure that meat being made available for human consumption is free from disease. The year-wise number of animals slaughtered in the district is given below :—

Year	Animals slaughtered (000)	
1986-87	..	8.8
1987-88	..	9.4
1988-89		10.4

Problems of stray animals.—There is a Cattle Catching Party in the State to round up wild, stray and useless cattle which create problems for the farmers. The panchayats approach the Gaushala Development-cum-Cattle Catching Officer, having headquarters at Chandigarh, who deputes the cattle catching party to the affected area for rounding up the animals. The rounded animals are put to auction and the unsold are sent to Mandawala Gosadan in Ambala district.

Gaushala development.—According to the old concept, *gaushalas* were institutions inspired by religious sentiments to house the unproductive and useless cattle and were run on charity. To give new meaning to the old concept, an idea was mooted to convert these institutions into Cattle Breeding-cum-Milk Producing Centres with some financial assistance and technical guidance. The 4 registered *gaushalas* in the district are at Gohana, Sonipat, Sisana and Jak-hauli.

Dairy farming.—Not only in the State but also all over the country, the district is known for the quality of its milch animals, both cows and buffaloes. As per 1972 and 1982 Livestock Censuses, the number of buffaloes and cows is as under :—

(Figures in lakhs)

		1977		1982	
		Cows	Buffaloes	Cows	Buffaloes
In milk	..	0.21	0.67	0.19	0.73
Dry	..	0.17	0.50	0.11	0.32
Not calved even once	..	0.02	0.04	0.03	0.08
Others	..	..	..	..	..

The farmer can be interested in maintaining quality milch animals for commercial milk production if he finds ready and remunerative market for milk at hand. In 1959, Delhi Milk Scheme was initiated by the Government of India to cater to the milk requirements of Delhi in an organized manner. It was also to provide a fair remunerative market for milk producers in areas in the neighbourhood of Delhi. Later the Delhi Milk Scheme commissioned its milk collecting and chilling Centres at Kharkhoda and Sonipat.

The venture of Delhi Milk Scheme could not succeed in this district for various reasons. First, Delhi Milk Scheme did not take any measures to increase milk production in the area. Secondly, the attractive prices were not offered to the milk producers (farmers). The price at which milk was sold for local consumption was generally higher than what the Delhi Milk Scheme offered. With industrialization and the resulting urbanisation in some of the areas of the district, such as Sonipat and Gohana, local demand of milk increased considerably. The milk collection and chilling centres put up by Delhi Milk Scheme could not succeed.

As in other parts of the State, the milk trade remained disorganized in the district and the prices of milk and milk products ruled high during summer season. The dairy on modern lines was absent. To develop the dairy industry on commercial lines, the Dairy Development Corporation was set-up in Haryana in 1970

To develop the dairy and animal husbandry in the State, two training centres were established at Karnal and Gurgaon in 1976-77 and 1981-82 respectively. The Sonipat district was tagged for training purposes with Karnal Training Centre. Those youngmen who have a desire to install a dairy are given training for 21 days under the self-Employment Scheme. During 1987-88 and 1988-89, 327 and 174 persons from this district received training at Government Dairy Training Centre, Karnal.

A Mini Dairy Scheme was also initiated by the Government during 1979-80 to provide self-employment opportunities to the young persons. Under this scheme rural youngmen/women are assisted in securing loan through various institutional finances and the Department provides insurance margin money and attractive subsidy to the loanee. The 5-milch cattle and 3-milch cattle units are being launched by a group of ten persons on cooperative basis. The 3-milch cattle unit could only be run by the educated members of Scheduled Castes separately.

The achievement made pertaining to the Mini-Dairy Schemes (5-Milch Cattle Scheme and 3 -Milch Cattle Scheme) is as shown below :—

Name of the Scheme	Persons who were given loans :		Buffaloes purchased with the loan	
	1987-88	1988-89	1987-88	1988-89
1. 5-Milch Cattle Scheme	27	18	97	74
2. 3-Milch Cattle Scheme (S.C.)	43	40	98	103
3. 3-Milch Cattle Scheme (G.C.)	39	40	109	95
	109	98	304	272

FISHERIES

The Fisheries Development Officer was overall incharge for the fish development in the district. In 1988-89, he was assisted with 3 Fisheries Officers with thier head-quarters at Sonipat, Gohana and Kharkhoda; 1 Assistant Fisheries Officer having headquarters at Rai and other lower technical staff. He (F.D.O.) functioned under the administrative control of Director Fisheries, Haryana, Chandigarh.

The district of Sonipat has a huge water resources in the form of river, drains, canals and ponds. These resources offer a significant potential for increasing fish production and for generating income for the economically weaker sections.

The notified water in the district are: river Yamuna, 'Diversion Drain No. 8, Drain No. 6, Drain No. 5, Nai Nala and Delhi Branch Canal. Close season is observed from 1st July to 31st August. The notified waters were auctioned by the Director of Fisheries, Haryana in open auction. The amount fetched through auction during 1988-89 was Rs. 93,000.

The village ponds can be utilized for fish culture. Departmental survey was conducted in the district and found about 750 ponds covering a water area of about 1,100 hectares. Most of the ponds are seasonal, but by proper reclamation/renovation, these can prove useful for fish culture.

The rights and management of the village ponds are with the panchayats. Some panchayats put their ponds on lease to the fish farmers on long-term basis. The technical guidance, financial assistance and supply of quality fish seed are provided to the fish farmers by the Fisheries Department.

In 1988-89, total water area brought under fish culture was 240.05 hectares and 2053.50 tonnes of fish was produced. The fish produced during 1988-89 earned Rs. 205.35 lakh.

The block-wise area brought under fish culture during 1988-89 was as under :—

Block	Area in hectare	Fish seed stocked (in lakhs)
1. Sonipat	29.4	2.89
2. Ganaur	17.0	1.50
3. Kharkhoda	39.00	2.91
4. Rai	34.0	2.90
5. Gohana	38.6	1.42
6. Mundlana	42.0	1.46
7. Kathura	40.5	2.37
Total :	240.5	15.45

The important varieties of food fish available in the district are as under :—

1. Carps of family Cyprinidae

Labeo rohita (Rohu) .—It is a column-bottom feeder, and grows to three feet or more in length. It is a very popular variety.

Labeo calbas (Kalbas) .—It is relatively slow growing and attains a size of about 3 feet.

Catla Catla (Thaila) .—It is a surface feeder and the fastest growing carp fish in India. It is quite popular when not exceeding two feet in size. The large specimens, reaching up to six feet, are rare.

Cirrhhina mrigala (Mobi).—It is a bottom feeder and grows to 3 feet or more.

II Cat fish

Wallago attu (Malhi).—It is a predacious and piscivorous fish, and grows to a size of about six feet. It is a good game fish.

Mystus seenghala (Seenghara).—It attains a length of over four feet.

Notopterus notopterus (Pari).—It also attains a size of $1\frac{1}{2}$ feet.

Notopterus chitala (Moh).—It is a game fish growing to $1\frac{1}{4}$ feet in size.

Silonia silondia (Silond).— It prefers strong streams and clear deep waters. It grows to a size of six feet and is considered good for eating.

III Minor Carp

The fish of this type are : *Labeo gonius* (Seercha), *labeo bata* (Bata), *Cirrhhina riba* (Reba), *Pangasius pangasius* (Pangus), *Bagarius bagruis* (Gonch), *Chella baccila* (Chilwa), *Mastacemblus armatus* (Bain), *Callichrous patoa* (Paboda), *Callichrous bimaculatus* and *Mugil Carusla*.

FORESTRY

The Sonipat Forest Division which was created on October 1, 1974, covered the entire revenue district of Sonipat. This division is under the charge of the Divisional Forest Officer (also called Deputy Conservator of Forests) with headquarters at Sonipat. He is assisted by 3 Range Forest Officers (Forest Rangers), one each at Sonipat, Rai and Gohana Ranges. The other staff include 3 Deputy Rangers, 10 Foresters and 50 Forest Guards. The Divisional Forest Officer acts as a Co-ordinator, with the Deputy Commissioner and other officer at district level while at the State level he is answerable to the Chief Conservator of Forests, Haryana, Chandigarh through the Conservator of Forests, North Circle, Panchkula.

Each range of the forest in the district is co-terminous with the civil boundary of community development block. Rai range covers the community development blocks of Rai and Kharkhoda, Sonipat range the blocks of Sonipat and Guaur while the community development blocks of Mundlana, Gohana and Kathura fall under the Gohana range. The forest ranges have been further divided into different forest blocks under the charge of Deputy Rangers/Foresters. Each block has been further sub-divided into forest beats under the charge of a Forest Guard.

The area under forests is classified according to ownership, private and the State. Forests owned by panchayats/communities and private individuals

are included under private forests. The State forests, on the basis of legal status, are categorised as reserved, protected and unclassified. The reserved forests are permanently earmarked to the production of timber or other forest produce and in them, the right of grazing and cultivation is seldom allowed.

There is no reserved forest under the control of this division. Forests of this district mainly comprise waste strips on both sides of the railway lines, canals, drains and bunds. The following area was under forests in the district during 1988-89:—

Classification of forests	Area (in Hectares)
(A) State	
(i) Reserved	..
(B) (I) Protected	7,400
(a) Compact blocks	..
(b) Strips	..
(i) Railway lines	332
(ii) Roads	1,641
(iii) Canals and bunds	5,478
Total	7,451
(c) Unclassified	324
(d) Private Forests	
(i) closed under Section 38 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927	9
(ii) Closed under Sections 4 and 5 of the Land Preservation Act, 1900	61
Total :	70
Grand Total :	7,845

The strips along railway lines, roads, canals and bunds are under the ownership of respective departments. These strips are maintained by the Forest Department for afforestation purposes. The areas closed under Section 38 of Indian Forest Act, 1927 were voluntarily handed over by the owners to the Forest Department for optimum utilization of the waste land by increasing the density of growing stock for benefit of the society. The areas under Sections 4 and 5 of the Land Preservation Act, 1900 were closed compulsorily in the interest of better habitat and preservation and conservation of the site.

This district has twin problems of water-logging and salinity. Large areas have been affected by the salinity. A special effort is needed to tackle these problematic areas for optimum utilization. Strip areas are managed for economical and protective use.

Farm Forestry

Plants are raised under this scheme and are supplied to the farmers at subsidised rates for creating awareness and love for plants among the village folk. The supply of these plants will improve the ecology of the tract and the farmers' income. It will meet his daily requirements of fire-wood and small timber. The forests must be raised and maintained constantly for the gainful employment for the poor.

The following works were done under different schemes in Sonipat Forest Division during 1987-88 to 1988-89 :—

Name of the Scheme	Area under forest	
	1987-88	1988-89
1. P. Scheme (Rail, Road and canal)
2. P.S. Farm forestry, fuel wood plantation
3. Normal
4. P.S. Quick growing species	50 hectares
5. P.S air Strips
6. P.S. mixed plantation, waste land and suitable land

7. P.S. Plantation on p/Lands	..	..	..
8. P.S. Extension forestry	..	465 RKM	600 RKM
9. C.S.S. development of social forestry including reafforestation of degraded forests and raising of shelter belts	..	..	..
10. P.S. make India green	..	..	..
11. C.S.C. Shelter belts	..	..	..
12. Raising of fuel wood plantation on degraded forest land	..	..	..
13. Social forestry Project (World Bank aided project)	..	..	..
14. P.S. Problematic sites	..	10 hectares	20 hectares
15. P.S. Industrial and Commercial use	..	..	50 hectares
16. P.S. rural wood plantation	..	200 hectares	350 hectares

The forest produce is divided into two main categories; major and minor. The major forest produce consists of timber and fuel-wood. The minor forest produce consists of grasses, fruits, etc. As per decision of the Government, all major forest produce is being harvested through departmental felling except few dry fallen trees which are auctioned to the private contractors.

The following figures show income from dry and fallen trees: —

Year	Income
	Rs.
1975-76	1,85,768
1976-77	5,41,212
1977-78	2,15,885

1978-79	4,63,938
1979-80	5,53,055
1980-81	5,47,981
1981-82	2,48,585
1982-83	2,85,500
1983-84	3,51,970
1984-85	2,58,310
1985-86	5,02,297
1986-87	1,29,926
1987-88	3,23,415
1988-89	8,53,296

The forests have played a very important role in the economy of the district by providing timber and fire wood for local requirements. *Sisham, kikar, neem, eucalyptus*, etc. are the important plantation species raised by the Forest Department. The Department created enough scope of employment directly in forest works and indirectly in the forest-based industries such as saw mills, packing cases, ply-wood and furniture.

Social Forestry Division, Gurgaon/Panipat came into existence during the 1982-83 and since then intensive social forestry and farm forestry programmes have been implemented in this district too.

NATURAL CALAMITIES

Floods

Due to the extension of irrigation in the district from the Western Jamuna (Yamuna) Canal, there has been much precipitation. The Yamuna, passing along the eastern boundary of the district is the only natural drainage line which provides a suitable natural outfall for the drains of the district.

The district suffered from floods many times. "Tradition says that in the 17th century the dam of the old royal canal of Nawab Mardan Alikhan

(Ali Mardan Khan) broke below Gohana and a flood came down which destroyed the city of Lalpura whose foundation still lie a mile or so west of Rohtak, but time has probably exaggerated the catastrophe"¹

Some of the worst floods which hit the district during the present century occurred in the years 1924, 1925, 1960, 1961, 1963, 1964 and 1967. The floods in 1924 in which the notorious Drain No. 8 caused considerable damage, were caused by the overflowing of the Yamuna. Sonipat tahsil was badly affected and considerable damage was caused in the Gohana tahsil.

There were unprecedented rains in 1960 especially during the month of August. These resulted in very heavy floods in Gohana and a number of surrounding villages. Most of the roads leading to the town were cut off. The accumulated water at Gohana and surrounding villages had only one outlet, i.e., Drain No. 8 which outfalls in the Bhindwas Lake. This accumulated water and heavy rainfall resulted in breaches in the banks of the drain and 533 villages (out of a total of 761 in the then Rohtak district) were flooded.

Floods again hit the district in August, 1961. Notorious Drain No. 8 again spilled over Gohana and the bund to the north-west of the town was breached at many places. Another stream coming from Jind side flooded areas across Butana, Baroda and Ahulana. Then another stream flooded about a dozen villages lying between Rithal and Samchana for some 32 kilometres. The West Juan Drain badly flooded a tract about 48 kilometres long and many places 5 kilometres wide. The 15-kilometre Jhundpur Takrol-Mihampur bund on the Yamuna in the area of the then Sonipat sub-division breached and water rushed through a number of villages. The residents of Jhundpur had to be encamped at Sonipat.

During 1963, the breaches in various drains and heavy rainfall flooded various low-lying areas, i.e. Baroda, Jagsi, Bhandari, Khandrai, Chhapra, Bhanwar and Kathura.

Again in 1964, the heavy rainfall resulted in floods in the then Sonipat tahsil. Almost the whole of the tahsil was under water. Breaches in Drain No. 6 were the main cause of floods in this area. After closing the breaches, pumps were installed at various places to de-water the area. The area in 1967 also witnessed extensive floods in the Sonipat tahsil. The overflowing of the Yamuna resulted in the inundation in quite number of villages in the Sonipat tahsil too.

Prevention of floods—Drain No. 8 starts opposite Gohana town and after covering 88 kilometres falls into Bhindwas depression. To check the

1. *Rohtak District Gazetteer*, 1910, p. 23.

overflowing of this Drain, its left bank towards Rohtak town) was raised by 3 feet and the right bank by 1 foot. Further, flood water of this drain was diverted to the Yamuna through a newly constructed Diversion Drain No. 8 which is 73 kilometres in length from Gohana to the Yamuna. Most parts of the Gohana and Sonipt tahsils benefitted by this diversion drain.

The other two minor drains are : Dobheta Drain and Chhapra Drain. The former, 20 km. long, is tributary drain to Diversion Drain No. 8 and serves Dobheta village in Sonipat tahsil and Bidhol, Kalwal, Lath and other villages of Gohana tahsil, while the latter, 13 kilometres long caters only to the Gohana tahsil and outfalls into Drain No. 8.

The remodelling of Drain No. 6, which is an old drain, 41 kilometres in length, was taken in hand after the monsoon of 1964. This project benefitted very much to the Sonipat tahsil. The remodelling work on Issapur Kheri Drain, Nai Nallah Drain No. 3., Drain No. 4, etc protected the district from floods.

After the formation of Haryana as separate State, many schemes pertaining to bunds proved a boon to the flood affected areas of the district.

Famines and Droughts

The record of famines is a bad chapter in the history of the district. With insufficient means of irrigation and notoriously precarious rainfall, it was natural that it should be frequently visited by famines.

Each of these was given a specific name based on the year of its occurrence and is like an epoch in the history of the countryside. The famines (*kal*, or *akal*) best remembered, are mentioned below¹ :—

Year		Local name ^a of famine	Brief description
A.D.	Samvat		
1753-54	1810	<i>Dasa</i>	
1782-83	1840	<i>Chalsa</i>	Lasted for three years ; grain sold at 5 <i>seers</i> to a rupee; a large number of villages date their refoundation in whole or in part from this famine.
1802-03	1860	<i>Satha</i>	Grain sold at 10 <i>seers</i> to a rupee, two consecutive harvests failed.

1. For a detailed description of famines see *Rohtak District Gazetteer*, 1910, pp. 146—52.

2. The local names of the famines convey the *Samvat* years in which they occurred.

AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION

1817-18	1874 <i>Chauhattra</i>	Chiefly a fodder famine like that of A.D. 1877-78; grain sold at 12 <i>seers</i> to a rupee.
1833-34	1890 <i>Nawbia</i>	Very severe grain famine, grain unprocurable.
1837-38	1894 <i>Chauranwa</i>	Not so severe as in A.D. 1833-34.
1860-61	1917 <i>Sattrah</i>	More severe than the <i>Chalisa</i> , rains failed for two years; three preceding harvests bad; people had to resort to berries of karil bushes; the rains of 1859-60 were poor, and those of 1860-61 failed almost entirely so that Najafgarh Jhil ran dry-an occurrence unknown before, grain sold at 8 <i>seers</i> to a rupee. First famine in the district in which relief was regularly organised by the British Government.
1868-69	1925 <i>Pachisa</i>	Provincial famine; grain sold at 10 <i>seers</i> to a rupee; loss of cattle 90,000 head; another 50,000 head of cattle sent off to the hills.
1877-78	1934 <i>Chautisa</i>	Very severe fodder famine; loss of cattle greater than ever before.
1886-87	1940 <i>Chalisa</i>	Light famine.
1896-97	1953 <i>Tirepana</i>	Not very severe. With 1895-96 a cycle of lean years began which lasted eleven years, with three famines and four years of scarcity.
1899-1900	1956 <i>Chhapana</i>	Very severe; great fodder scarcity. Twenty thousand cows and buffaloes sold at fairs and prices fell from 28 to 14 rupees per head; many persons employed on relief work.

1905-06	1963 <i>Tiresatha</i>	Fodder 10 bundles of <i>jowar</i> per rupee; imported from Bhatinda and other parts of the Punjab. In some villages no cattle was left.
1909-10	1967	Grain at 8 <i>seers</i> to a rupee. In 1911 only <i>rabi</i> was good, <i>khari</i> failed.
1913-14	1971	Grain at 8 to 10 <i>seers</i> to a rupee. Great fodder scarcity.
1918-19	1976	Scarcity of fodder and grain. Also severe epidemic of influenza.
1928—30	1986—88	Lasted for three years; effects aggravated considerably by world-wide agricultural depressions.
1938	1996	There had been a succession of three poor crops when the monsoon failed in 1938 and caused acute and wide-spread distress. The famine lasted for about three years.

Before adoption of systematic relief measures famines resulted in deserted sites. With the spread of irrigation, the increase in the means of communications and famine relief measures such disasters as famines ceased to recur.

The efforts were made by the Government to mitigate the sufferings affected by the natural calamities (floods, hailstorms, drought, fire and lightening). As already explained, Sonipat is a flood-prone area as the Yamuna flows in the territory of this district. Besides, there are many distributaries for irrigation purposes.

In case of floods, the Government provides the relief on the following items :—

(i) Free or concessional supply of food ;

(ii) Cash payments to indigent persons for purchase of necessities;

- (iii) Cash doles to disabled ;
- (iv) Free or concessional supply of clothing and blankets ;
- (v) Free or concessional supply of fodder ;
- (vi) Free or concessional supply of seed ;
- (vii) Measures for prevention of cattle epidemics ;
- (viii) Provision for drinking water ;
- (ix) Provision for transport facilities for goods to be moved on relief account ;
- (x) Repairs to houses damaged by the calamity ;
- (xi) Relief works such as major, medium and minor irrigation works, soil conservation , forests, road and rural works.

The seed is supplied to the affected persons on the subsidised rates i.e. 50 per cent of the cost of the seed. In sanctioning the seed grant, the grantees' amount of loss of the Kharif crops and capacity of sowing Rabi Crops is kept in mind. Mostly, Deputy Commissioner decides the eligibility and scale of the relief.

Scale of rations and essential commodities is as follows:—

Rations.—Free rations may be supplied to the affected families upto 15 kg. of flour per affected family weekly till the village is again in a position to get its supply line restored.

Free Concessional Food.—Where any village/area is marooned and the population has been evacuated to a safer place, i.e. camps, chaupals, dharamsalas, etc., preferably cooked food should be supplied. However, if the supply of cooked food is not feasible, only then free *atta* be supplied to such population till the time they are in the relief camps.

Free Concessional Fodder.—Where any village/area is surrounded by water and water has entered the *abadi* area but the cattle as well as the persons are staying in their villages and have some means of transportation to move out of the villages, subsidised fodder is supplied and subsidy may be upto 50% of the cost of fodder. The scale of fodder has been fixed as 40 Kg. green or 13 kg. dry fodder for adult animal and this would be half in case of minor. This provision of fodder help is maintained till such time the village is again in a position to get its supply line restored.

Where any village/area is marooned and the population (human as well as cattle) has been evacuated to a safer place (camps, chaupals, dharmashalas etc.), the free fodder will be supplied till such time the animals are staying in the camps.

Provision of Essential Commodities to the flood-affected persons.—Other essential commodities such as kerosene, sugar, dal, milk, match boxes, salt, ghee, etc are supplied at the rate of Rs. 7 per family per day. The supply of free rations in the marooned villages is based on the situations and local availability of material.

House Repair Grant.—The grant is allowed at the rate of Rs. 400 per katcha house and Rs. 600 per pucca house to those persons whose houses have been substantially damaged and who are not left with any habitable accommodation. The damage would be considered substantial if it is assessed above 25%. It is paid only to the head of the family.

Supply of Sirkis for temporary help.—Sirkis are also provided to the deserving flood-affected persons.

Compensation for the loss of cattle and human life.—There is a provision of Rs. 10,000 as an *ex-gratia* grant for the loss of one person in a family due to drowning in flood water or due to house collapse in the heavy rains.

On the death of the following animals due to floods, collapse of house under the heavy rains, the gratuitous relief is given at the scale noted against each:—

Name of the Cattle	Rate of relief
	Rs.
He Camel/She Camel	1,000
Horse/Mare.	1,000
Bullock/Buffalo	1,000
Cow	1,000
He donkey/She donkey	150
Mule	400
He Buffalo (more than three years of age)	700
He Calf/She Calf (upto 3 years of age)	100
Sheep/Goat	100

The above relief is admissible to those persons who cannot resort to insurance and are unable to bear the loss.

The Financial help in case of Hailstorms

For the loss of standing crops.—The damage affected by the hailstorms is assessed on the basis of actual loss to the standing crops and the payment thereof be made for each damaged acre on the following basis:—

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| (i) Where the loss to the standing crops exceeds 75% | Rs. 400 per damaged acre |
| (ii) Where the loss to the standing crops exceeds 50% but does not exceed 75% | Rs. 300 per damaged acre |
| (iii) Where the loss to standing crops exceeds 25% but does not exceed 50% | Rs. 200 per damaged acre |

An amount equal to 5% of the total amount given as compensation for hailstorm damage to the farmers in any village is given in cash to the agricultural workers of the village.

On the death of animals due to hailstorms, the same compensation is given as admissible in case of floods.

Financial relief in case of fire and lightening

In addition to workers of poorer classes, the relief is given to deserving petty traders and farmers (in rural and urban areas) who cannot resort to insurance and who are unable to bear the loss. The gratuitous relief to the fire and lightening sufferers is to be granted at the scale noted below :—

For the loss of personal property	Rate of relief
On first Rs 2,000	.. 50%
On next Rs. 3,000	.. 25%
On next Rs. 5,000	.. 15%
On next Rs. 5,000	.. 10%
On next Rs. 15,000	.. 7%
Above Rs. 30,000	.. Nil.

The gratuitous relief is also granted to the damage caused to crops in the following kinds of eventualities :—

1. The Standing crops
2. The harvested and stacked crops
3. In case of loss by fire to the standing crops

The relief be granted per damaged acre as follows :—

1. Where the loss to standing crops exceeds 75% .. Rs. 300 per acre
2. Where loss to the standing crops exceeds 50% but does not exceed 75% .. Rs. 200 per acre
3. Where loss to standing crops exceeds 25% but does not exceed 50% .. Rs. 100 per acre

In case of occurrence of loss to harvested and stacked crops by fire, relief is granted 20% of the total loss subject to a maximum of Rs. 6,000 in an individual case.

Damage to Crops by Electric Sparks.—Many cases have come to the notice of Government from the whole state where stacked crops/harvested crops were destroyed thereby causing a great loss to the farmers. In such eventualities S.D.O.(Civil) recommends to the Government the quantum of relief.

Financial Relief/Other help in case of drought.—Relief works such as major, medium and minor irrigation works, soil conservation, forests, roads and rural works are started on the occurrence of drought to provide gainful employment to the affected people. Taccavi and other sorts of financial help is provided to the people.

Fodder is also supplied on subsidised basis.

The distribution of financial relief in case of all the natural calamities is made by the Tahsildars and Sub-Divisional Officers (Civil) under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner.

The State of Haryana was adversely affected by drought during 1986-87, 1987-88 and by floods during 1988-89. Consequent upon this, the Sonipat district too was hit by these natural vagaries over these years. With a view to give relief to the affected farmers whose crops were hit by these calamities, large scale financial assistance by Central as well as State Government was given to them. The assistance was provided in the form of subsidies on the cost of agricultural inputs such as seeds, fertilisers weedicides etc. The extent of

assistance given to the farmers in the district from 1986-87 to 1988-89 is given below :—

Year	Amount provided (Rs. in lakhs)	No. of beneficiaries
1986-87	30.90	All the affected farmers covered for providing the subsidy on agricultural inputs under the natural calamities.
1987-88	40.74	
1988-89	24.13	

IRRIGATION

The district has a sub-tropical continental climate. From relief point of view, it is plain area. The river Yamuna on the eastern side forms a flood plain along its bed. Loam (*Bhangar* and *Nardak*) and silty loam (*khadar*) soils are found in the district. The underground water is comparatively high. The sub-soil water alongwith Yamuna river belt and towards north side of Delhi-Ambala railway line is fit for irrigation except parts of Gohana and Mundlana blocks.

The general slope of water in the district is from north to south. The natural drainage is a problem in some parts of Gohana tahsil. Efforts are being made to solve this problem. Irrigation in the district is mostly done by canals and tubewells. However, there are wells in the *Khadar* area for irrigation purposes.

The net irrigated area by different means during 1985-86 to 1987-88 is as follows :—

(000 hectares)					
Year	Government canals	Wells	Tube-wells	Total	Percentage to net area sown
1985-86	68	..	60	128	75
1986-87	65	..	73	138	78
1987-88	84	..	82	166	94
1988-89	Not available				

During 1973-74, the net area under irrigation was 97 thousand hectares. It increased to 131 thousand hectares in 1982-83. The Irrigated area as on March 31, 1988 was 166 thousand hectares. During 1973-74, the area irrigated by canals was 59 thousand hectares which went to 84 thousand hectares in 1987-88. There was a nominal area under well irrigation in the district from 1973-74 to 1987-88.

Crop-wise gross area irrigated in the district during 1985-86 to 1988-89 is as follows:—

Crop	(hectares)			
	1985-86	1986-87	1987-88	1988-89
1. Rice	24,308	29,063	15,369	..
2. Jowar	8,138	10,732	11,043	..
3. Bajra	1,234	2,910	2,437	..
4. Wheat	1,19,876	1,26,178	1,22,752	..
5. Barley	571	424	808	..
5. Maize	1,125	2,207	1,222	..
7. Gram	1,319	1,140	1,322	..
8. Other pulses	3,093	4,368	6,520	..
9. Sugarcane	10,521	12,126	13,749	..

Canal Irrigation.—The canals form the chief means of irrigation in the district. The major area in the district is covered by the canals. The Western Jumna (Yamuna) Canal is the oldest canal in the district. All the distributaries depend upon the Yamuna canal for water requirement.

The Western Jumna (Yamuna) Canal has a long history. Dug originally during the reign of Firuz Shah to conduct water to the royal gardens at Hisar and Hrusi, it incidentally irrigated the intervening tracts also. It was also re-excavated in Akbar's reign to bring perennial supplies from the Yamuna and Som

into the Chauting and to Hansi and Hisar. It was further improved in 1643 A.D. during the reign of Shah Jahan by Ali Maidan Khan with the object of diverting water to Delhi. The river supply was tamed about 22.5 kilometers below the present headworks of the canal and water was led along the drainage line through Panipat and Sonipat to Delhi.

When the British took over, the discharge of the Canal was 2,500 cusecs. Between 1870—1882, remodelling was done with a view to improving the drainage, securing increased control over the supply and its distribution and providing greater facilities for navigation. The discharge was increased to 5,000 cusecs in 1877. The Sirsa Branch was sanctioned in 1888 and subsequent minor extension greatly increased the irrigation potentiality of the canal. Its discharge augmented to 8,433 cusecs in 1891 and 9,000 cusecs in 1940-41 and in 1966 it stood at 14,000 cusecs.

The canal takes off from the Yamuna at Tajewala headworks (Ambala district) where a very strong masonry weir is built across the river. Between Tajewala and Dadupur, the canal for the most part flows through an old river bed. The slope is fairly steep and the current strong. At Dadupur there is a level crossing over the combined Patherala and Somb torrents. From Dadupur the canal flows south in an artificial channel to Buria, below which a remarkable spur of the *Bangar* high lands forces it to make an abrupt curve to the east.

There is a regulator at Indri (Karnal district) with lock and escape head where the canal bifurcates into Sirsa Branch and Main Branch. About 48 kilometres further down at Munak the Main Branch bifurcates into Hansi and Delhi Branches and the Gohana Distributary.

The following water channels (Distributaries) irrigate the district:—

1. Israna Distributary
2. Gohana Distributary
3. Bajana Distributary
4. Rohtak Distributary
5. Bhalot Sub Branch
6. Dobehta Distributary
7. Bhinswal Distributary
8. Juan Distributary System
9. Pai Distributary System

10. Ganaur Distributary
11. Rajpura Distributary System
12. Sardhana Distributary System
13. Sonipat Distributary System
14. Kakroi Distributary
15. Harsana Distributary
16. Ladpur Distributary
17. Nahri (Major) Distributary
18. Nahri Distributary
19. Butana Distributary
20. Sunder Branch
21. Direct Offtake of Delhi Branch—
 - (i) Munshi Ram Minor
 - (ii) Bavanpur Minor
 - (iii) Bidnauli Minor
 - (iv) Turakpur Minor
22. Direct Outlets of Delhi Branch

Well Irrigation.—Well irrigation is possible in areas where sub-soil water is sweet and available in plenty. The quantity of underground water depends on many factors such as rainfall, depth of water-table in the area, type of underground strata and its nearness to a natural stream. Its quality of salinity or sweetness depends upon the type of salts in the clay underneath.

The sweet water belt lies along the Yamuna in Sonipat tahsil and comprises mostly the areas lying between the Delhi Branch and the Yamuna. The low lying area between the Grand Trunk Road and the Yamuna is called *Khadar* area. It is the old bed of the Yamuna. Due to river action in the past, all the salts in the clay were washed away, water in the area is sweet and available in plenty at shallow depths ranging from 4 feet to 15 feet.

The sub-soil water in the Gohana tahsil is brackish. In Sonipat tahsil the upper layer of water is brackish while lower layers are sweet. This is most probably due to the effect of the Yamuna in the lower layers.

The well irrigation is mostly done in the *khadar* area.

The various devices used for lifting water in the district generally depend on the depth of the sub-soil water. An important method used for lifting water from the well is described below.—

This consists of a large leather bag (*charas*) holding 30 to 40 gallons of water, fastened to one end of a rope which passes over a small strong wheel (*bhaun* or *chak*) fixed over the well. When the leather bag has been lowered, the other end of the rope is attached to the yoke of a pair of bullocks, who then walk down a ramp of a length approximately equal to the depth of the well. The driver sits on the rope near the yoke to keep it in position. By the time the bullocks arrive at the end of the ramp, the bag has been drawn up to the top of the well, and its water is emptied into a cistern, generally by a man who stands by, but sometimes by a mechanical arrangement. The rope is then detached from the bullocks, the bag is lowered again and the bullocks return by a less steep incline parallel to it, and the operation is re-commenced.

Tubewells and Pumping sets.—Tubewells and pumping sets were introduced after Independence. The pumping-sets initially replaced the old traditional manual method of raising water from the wells. With the electrification of villages, electricity operated tubewells being economical, are getting popular. The Government encourages the installation of tubewells by providing loans on easy terms. Special schemes have been formulated for advancing loans under the Agriculture Refinance Corporation Scheme, from the Land Development Banks and Small Farmers Development Agency.

The tubewells and pumping sets serve to reduce the water-logging and check the rise in the water table. The total number of tubewells during 1987-88 was 82.

Minor Irrigation Schemes.—Ground water exploration was started in the district in 1971 by the Central Ground Water Board. It drilled a total of 10 exploratory boreholes in the villages of Panchhi Jattan, Khizarpur Kheri, Pinana, Issapur, Kheri, Chirana, Nahra, Rohat, Kami and Kheora.

The Government undertakes the installation of tubewells through Haryana State Minor Irrigation Tubewells Corporation for providing irrigation to the farmers. It drilled 10 exploratory boreholes in the villages of Bali, Kheri, Garhibola, Sardhana, Siwana Mal, Bhatgaon, Muzam Nagar, Gohana rural and Mundlana. Out of these 10 exploratory boreholes, one in village Sardhana was converted into the production well. Other boreholes had to be abandoned because of the bad quality of ground water.

As per the exploration done, the ground water is fresh along with the courses of the river Yamuna and it is brackish or saline in the western direction

of the district. Out of the total area of the district, it is underlain in shallow aquifers with fresh ground water in 783 square kilometres, brackish ground water in 1,279 sq. Km. and saline ground water in 144 sq. km. In the deep aquifers, at the ground water is fresh in 570 sq. Kms., brackish in 104 sq. km and saline in 1,532 square kilometers.

The assesement of ground water recharge and the level of exploitation was evaluated by the Agriculture Department. The usable recharge which includes fresh ground water and brackish ground water comes to 45,294 ham. The level of exploitation is 11,917 ham and the balance ground water still available for exploitation is 33,377. However, most of the balance ground water is brackish.



CHAPTER V

INDUSTRIES

Before Independence, the district had no important industries. The mainstay of the people was agriculture. The industries were mainly confined to village and cottage sector. These included pottery, Carpentry, stone-dressing, leather-tanning, handloom weaving and utensil-making. Most of these have been decaying due to one reason or another.

Pottery.—The village pottery is as old as the country itself. In the past the potters of *Kumhar* community used to make the earthen wares of different sizes. The wares included *surahis* (water-jug), *hookas*, *pitchers* (*matka*) and coloured toys. Even to day some workers are still engaged in the manufacture of the above articles. Gohana is famous for the manufacture of crude coloured toys which are sold at the country fairs. Though it is the age of refrigerators and coolers, yet in the rural areas and urban areas the thirst in the summer season is quenched with the water stored in the pitchers and *surahis*.

A focal point at village Baroda is proposed. It will serve the potters of other villages. This scheme will cover about 250 pottery units. A production centre will be set-up with the help of K.V.I.C. and it will benefit 1,250 workers. The production centre will procure clay for potters and distribute among them for moulding against labour charges. It will make arrangements for marketing and finishing of the products.

Carpentry.—Sonipat is primarily an agricultural district. A few artisans prepared many articles for agricultural operations and household use. Despite the introduction of mechanised farming, the people of the district are still dependent upon such artisans. The carpenters being professional are engaged in manufacturing doors, door-frames and windows. The main concentration of this industry is at Gohana, Sisana and Butana.

Stone-dressing.—Stone-dressing and carving was another village industry, famous for the workmanship of the artisans. The *Rohtak District Gazetteer*, 1910, described the same as under¹:

“Many of the village houses have well-carved door frames, though the work seldom shows originality. The masonry houses are often fine and some really delicate work is to be seen on some of the newer houses in Ahulana and particularly on the Jain temple in Rohtak. The masonry chaupals and many of the *shivalas* are distinctive and handsome.”

Now the industry is, however, decaying on account of extensive use of stone chips, reinforced concrete cement and lintel works. Due to the heavy cost of carving, the people even avoid using such material.

Leather tanning.—Ample availability of raw-material facilitated the development of leather tanning on cottage and small scale basis in many villages of the district. The method used here was, however, as crude and unscientific as in rural areas elsewhere. The *Khatiks* and *rehgars* who undertook this work did rough tanning with lime and soda. The indigenous industry on a large scale died out before 1947. However, some people are engaged in this profession/industry which is being run on cottage basis at Kharkhoda and Gohana.

Cotton-manufactures.—Cotton-ginning was done by women in every rural household on small roller, worked by hand, called *charkhi*. Cotton-carding was done by the *penja* or *dhunia* available in almost every village. The spinning was entirely done by women in their spare time during the day. As elsewhere in many parts of India, it was a familiar sight to observe a bevy of girls and women seated together in some open space, singing and spinning the yarn on the wheel (*charkha*). The weaving was done by *dhanrks*, *chamars* and *julahas* on pit-loom. The coarse cloth used for men's clothing was locally prepared *khaddar*. In addition to *khaddar*, *khes* and *dhoti* were also made.

These products gradually lost their market to machine-made goods. The recent government policy to revive the handloom weaving and old handicrafts of the country, has given a fillip to this decaying industry.

Dyeing and Stamping.—In the long past every village had dyers. Cloth-stamping, as opposed to dyeing, was done by the *Chhimba* caste in many villages. The cloth to be decorated was first washed in water and then steeped in a solution containing pounded *mawi* and *hara* and after-dyeing again immersed in a solution containing gum and alum when women's clothes were to be printed; and *gur*, gum and iron-dust in the case of floor cloth-quilts. The dyed cloth was slightly damped again before the printing was done. This was effected with carved *shisham* wood dies made by the village carpenter and called *sancha* or *chhapa*. Gum was an important ingredient in the colours employed. The work was not of much artistic value and it was chiefly done for local use.

Cloth stamping has now died out in rural areas. Some dyers' shops are found only in towns and cities.

Metal products.—The *thathiar* (Kettle-mender) going on his usual rounds in villages was a familiar sight in the district. Village Nagar, a suburb of

Gohana, had a number of workmen, mostly Muslims, who were engaged in making pots and pans of brass and copper. These workmen were seldom men of capital but were financed by local *Baniyas* who advanced them a maund of metal or Rs. 20 or so as wages, and the average remuneration allowed was 4 annas *per diem* a head.

The following account pertaining to the manufacturing of copper and brass vessels finds place in the *Rohtak District Gazetteer*, 1910¹ :—

“Copper vessels are chiefly used by Muhammadans but they often prefer brass and bell-metal (*Kansi*) owing to the difficulty of getting the former tinned, and the copper vessels used in the district are imported mainly from Delhi and Panipat while the raw metal is brought from Bhiwani to Nagar for conversion into brass pots. These are either made from old brass vessels bought up in villages at the rate of Rs. 15 a maund or by uniting copper and zinc in the proportion of 24:16. The articles chiefly made are *lotas*, *bantas* (large vessels for water) and *katorias* (cups), and they are made by pouring the molten metal over baked earthen moulds. In the case of *lotas* and *bantas*, two moulds are required owing to the reversed curves for the upper and lower halves and these have to be subsequently soldered together and polished. The *katorias* are finished on a rough lathe.”

So called bell metal or white-brass, known as *kansi* or phul, was worked in exactly the same way, the amalgam being of copper and tin in the proportion of 40:11 for best and 40:8 for second quality. The articles made of this metal were *katorias*, *thals* and *thalis* (big and small trays and *gharials* or gongs; but only the first required a mould while the other two were hammered out. The quality of Nagarkansi was highly esteemed and the vessels were said not to sour food so rapidly as the manufactures of other districts. About Rs. 4,000 worth of this ware was reported to be made at Nagar in 1907 and about Rs. 500 worth of brass vessels of which only one-third were retained for local consumption. The exports were from Rohtak to Sonipat and Panipat (Karnal district).

Gold and Silver manufactures.—Ornaments making was in the hands of Sunars who were almost Hindus. They made ornaments to the order of their local clients. The general character of the work was somewhat massive and

barbaric but the effect especially of the various arm ornaments worn by women was by no means inelegant. A study of the many forms of the ornaments was interesting and would often tell the religion of the owner and in a woman's case her civil status; whether she was single or married; whether she had yet joined her husband in his house or not.

This industry is now in full swing. Due to high cost of gold, even some women use artificial jewellery which is brought from Delhi to the city/towns of the district.

Industrial Progress since Partition (1947).—The partition shattered the entire economic structure of the Punjab. It resulted in an unequal and unfavourable division of resources and manpower. The Sonipat area as a part of Rohtak district could not escape from the adverse effects of this calamity. The emigration of Muslim craftsmen somewhat shook the position of traditional industries. On the other hand, the inflow of displaced persons in large number posed an immediate problem of rehabilitation. The joint efforts of many enterprising persons migrating from Jhang, Muzaffargarh, Lyallpur and Multan to this area, coupled with Government assistance, resulted in their own speedy re-settlement. The tempo of progress was accelerated for the rehabilitation of displaced persons. By acquiring 148.5 acres of land, an 'Industrial Area' was established at Sonipat. Just after partition with a view to rehabilitating the displaced persons from Pakistan, the area at Sonipat had 123 plots which were sold on free hold basis and easy terms. No distinction was made between displaced and non-displaced persons with regard to the allotment.

An 'Industrial-cum-Housing' scheme at Sonipat was considered by the Government in 1961. Various factors such as the requirement of land for new industries, housing facilities for workers, controlling industrial over-crowding and solving the problem of industrial ribbon development led to the origin of this scheme. For this purpose Government acquired 500 acres of land at village Bandipur on Rathdhana road.

A number of small-scale and large-scale industries connected with bicycle parts, assembling of complete bicycle, hand tools, barbed wire, sewing machine-parts, bolts and nuts, steel re-rolling, glass and ceramics, rubber goods, food processing and cotton textiles sprang up all over the district. The proximity of Sonipat to Delhi which is a big market for consumer goods, gives the district an advantageous position and has greatly contributed to its industrial growth.

LARGE AND MEDIUM-SCALE INDUSTRIES

Though the district has no mineral resources, it has not lagged behind in the industrial sector.

In the First and Second Five-Year Plans, most of the development was in the small-scale sector. In the Third Five-Year Plan, the development of large-scale sector became conspicuous. Before the formation of Haryana, particularly during 1961, the registered factories in the Sonipat area were as follows:—

Sr. No.	Place	Name of the factory	Nature of work	Number of workers
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Sonipat	Bharat Oil General Industries	Lace Manufacturing	14
2.	Do	Parkash Industries	Ditto	19
3.	Do	S.D. Subash General Factory	Niwar, durries and <i>tapar</i> manufacturing	12
4.	Do	Globe Industries	Wooden packing cases	23
5.	Do	Deluxe Rubber Industries	Rubber Goods	10
6.	Do	Organo Chemical Industries	Chemical and rubber goods	64
7.	Do	Sunrise Rubber and General Mills	Rubber goods manufacturing	9
8.	Do	National Paints Private Ltd.	Pigments manufacturing	17
9.	Do	Aggarwal Glass Factory	Glass goods	246
10.	Do	Bharat Porcelain Factory	Pottery works	86
11.	Do	Kanwar Brothers	Wire and Wire Products	3
12.	Do	Steel and General Mills	Moulding and casting	23
13.	Do	Baba Iron and Steel Works	Bolts, nuts manufacturing	107

1	2	3	4	5
14.	Sonipat	The Popular Enamel Works	Enamel and metal works	30
15.	Do	Kumar Iron and Steel Works	Agricultural works	23
16.	Do	Sandhuimanann Iron and Steel Works	Ditto	18
17.	Do	National Steel Corporation	Chaff cutters, blades	14
18.	Do	Chopra Cycle Works	Cycle parts	7
19.	Do	Jai Engineering Works	Sewing machine parts	36
20.	Do	Maco Private Ltd.	R.B. Axle for cycle	22
21.	Do	Continental Bicycle Industries	Cycle and cycle parts	13
22.	Do	Laxmi Metal Industries	General repair	7
23.	Do	Household and General Mills	General repair	45
24.	Do	New Bharat Surgical Instruments and Engineering Works	Surgical Instruments	13
25.	Do	National Iron and Chemical Industries	Engineering and machine works	6
26.	Do	Hind Fans Ltd.	Electric fans manufacturing	18
27.	Do	Swastik Bakelite Company	Electric goods	23
28.	Do	Atlas Cycle Industries	Cycle manufacturing	1,452
29.	Do	Bharat Cycle Industries	Cycle manufacturing	19
30.	Do	Sonipat Button Factory	Button manufacturing	26
31.	Do	Krishana Ice Factory	Ice manufacturing	10
32.	Do	Laxi ice and Engineering Works	Ditto	15

After the formation of Haryana, the district made rapid progress in the field of industrial development. During 1988-89, there were 450 registered factories under Factories Act, 1948. Out of the total registered factories, there were 30 large and medium scale industrial units which provided employment to 18,800 persons directly with the turnover worth Rs. 580 crore annually. A sum of Rs. 13,995 lakh was invested in these units.

The units set-up in the district upto 31st March, 1989 are classified into the following categories:—

Type of Industries

Small Scale	No. of Units	Employment (No.)
Agro-based	950	2,850
Wood-Work	450	2,250
Mineral	2	18
Textile	613	1,839
Engineering	1,170	3,410
Chemical/Rubber	550	2,220
Animal Husbandry	990	1,980
Building material	350	1,750
Others	751	2,253
Ancillary	19	76
Cottage		
<i>Desi Jutis</i>	710	725
Potteries	40	77
Carpentry	207	214
Blacksmithy	220	270
Mulberry basket	150	157
<i>Ban</i>	77	132
Weavers	550	550

General description of the important factories (large and medium scale) operating on March 31, 1989, is as follows:—

The Atlas Cycle Industries Limited, Sonipat.—It was established in 1952 with a capital investment of Rs. 1.30 crore. It manufactures bicycle and bicycle components and parts. The bicycles manufactured here are exported to various countries. The unit exported bicycles and spare parts worth Rs. 229.53 lakh to various countries while a sum of Rs. 10.10 lakh was fetched due to export during 1965-66. The capital investment also increased from Rs. 1.30 crore during 1951-52 to Rs. 297.45 lakh during 1982-83.

The number of employees in the factory during 1966 was 3,238; it increased to 3,702 during 1988-89.

The Milton Cycle Industries Limited, Sonipat.—This unit was established in 1963 with the capital investment of Rs. 15.88 lakh for the manufacture of bicycle parts. It is functioning as an ancillary to the Atlas Cycle Industries Limited, Sonipat, for the supply of free-wheels and chains. The number of workers which was 307, during 1965-66, increased to 903 in 1988-89. In 1988-89, the capital investment and production was to the tune of Rs. 5,100 lakh and 639.30 lakh, respectively.

The Atlas Auto Industries, Rasol.—A unit of Atlas Cycle Industries was set-up in 1976 for the manufacture of Mopeds. It provided employment to 388 persons/workers and its production was worth Rs. 730 lakh during 1988-89.

M/s Sooraj Steel Industries.—This concern was set up in 1973 for the manufacture of Iron and steel-casting with an installed capacity of 9,000 Mt. per annum. A sum of Rs. 27.52 lakh was invested in the unit which provided direct employment to 58 workers.¹

Maco Private Limited Industries, Sonipat.—This unit was set-up in 1956 for manufacturing Piston pins, gudgeon pins and other kind of pins. It provided employment to 132 workers during 1988-89. A sum of Rs. 100 lakh was invested in this concern which produced goods worth Rs. 130 lakh during 1988-89.

M/s B.K. Iron and Steel Private Ltd., Sonipat.—This unit was set-up in 1932 for manufacturing of alloy iron and casting. It has a capacity of handling 18,600 metric tonnes iron per year. It provided employment to 56 workers and a sum of Rs. 46.51 lakh was invested in 1988-89. Its production was worth Rs. 355.05 lakh by March 31, 1989.

1. At present the factory (unit) is lying closed.

The Haryana Steel and Alloys Ltd., Murthal.—This unit was set-up during 1971-72. It is engaged in the manufacture of steel ingots. It has an installed capacity of 3,200 metric tonnes. It provided direct employment to 321 workers. With the capital investment of Rs. 364.72 lakh, the unit produced goods worth Rs. 771.66 lakh by the end of March, 1989.

The Rubber Reclaim of India Ltd.—This unit was established in 1968 with a capital investment of Rs. 78.70 lakhs. In 1989, total production of the unit was worth Rs. 5 crore and it gave employment to 430 workers. It manufactures rubber reclaim, rubber crumbs, etc.

The Haryana Sheet Glass Ltd., Village Sewli.—This unit was set-up for manufacturing sheet glass. A sum of Rs. 10.68 crore was invested in the concern. In 1989, 1,100 workers were provided employment and its production was worth Rs. 17.20 crore.

M/s Hilton Rubbers Ltd. Rai.—A public limited unit was established in 1972 for manufacturing rubber *transmission v, belt*, Conveyor belt, etc. An amount of Rs. 96.96 lakh was invested in the concern and it gave employment to 770 workers as on March 31, 1989. Its production was worth Rs. 26 crore. The goods exported to the other countries was to the tune of Rs. 35.79 lakh in 1988-89.

M/s Sunder Singh & Co. Private Ltd., Rai.—The unit was set-up in 1968 and is engaged in the manufacture of Ice plant and cold storage machinery.

In 1988-89, the total production of the concern was worth Rs. 79.88 lakh and it gave employment to 616 workers.

The Hindustan Everest Tools Ltd., Rai.—Set-up in 1962, the unit is engaged in the manufacture of hand tools and it gave employment to 962 workers during 1988-89. Its production was worth Rs. 839.68 lakh. During 1988-89, the unit earned Rs. 396.97 lakh due to export of hand tools to other countries.

Shanti Papers, Rai.—The unit was set-up in 1980 with a capital investment of Rs. 60 lakh for the manufacture of craft media paper. It provided employment to 45 workers and its production was worth Rs. 57.60 lakh during 1988-89.

M/s ECE Lamp Division, Sonipat.—A private limited concern was established in 1973 for manufacturing transformers, lamps, etc. During 1988-89, its production was worth Rs. 1,003.82 lakh and it gave employment to 522 workers.

Bharat Steel Tubes Limited, Ganaur.—It is one of the largest steel tube plants in the country and is located at Ganaur. The plant was erected on a

site covering about 130 acres. It has a built area of over 2,00,000 square feet and accommodates two complete tube mills and the related galvanising and finishing equipments. The mills have an annual capacity of more than 1,00,000 tonnes of pipes of 1/2" to 6 diameter for the conveyance of gas, water, oil and petroleum. The plant was designed and installed to cause a uniform product flow from incoming strip to the finished tubing and to manufacture pipes according to the most modern technique of electric resistance welding. Its products are welded steel pipes and tubes swaged poles, fabricated pipe work, tubular structure, etc.

Started as the most modern plant of its type, it is a striking symbol of outstanding achievement and co-operation between the United States of America and India. This project involves a capital outlay of more than Rs. 5 crore. The Industrial Finance Corporation of India and the Agency for Industrial Development, Washington (U.S.A.) financed the project by advancing rupee and foreign currency loans.

This project was set-up in a record time of less than eighteen months. The mill started production in the last quarter of 1965 and within a short period of commencement of production, the company started earning foreign exchange by exports to various foreign countries including U.K. and Australia.

The total sales turn over during 1966 was more than Rs. 2 crore, out of which the value of exports alone was worth Rs. 50 lakh. The average employment at the mills for single shift was 520. The number of employees decreased during 1988-89 from 1,133 to 932 while the production increased from 36.66 crore to 49.93 crore.

The plant played an important role in the economic development of the country by its contribution in the Fourth Five-year Plan.

Plastic Kot Sundersons Industries Private Ltd., Jatheri.—A private limited concern was set-up in 1966 for manufacturing rexine, PVC laminated cloth, paper and hessian. In 1988-89, the unit gave employment to 56 workers and its production was worth Rs. 100 lakh.

The Haryana Agro-Foods and Fruit Processing Plant, Murthal.—The unit was started by Haryana Government in 1974 for processing food products, such as juices, jams, tomato Ketchup, slices, squashes, pickles, juice pulp and titbit. It gave employment to 88 workers and its production was worth Rs. 22.67 crore during 1988-89.

Haryana Vanaspati and General Mills (Village Govindpuri), Kundli.—The unit was set-up in 1971 for manufacturing *vanaspati ghee*. It gave employment to 210 persons and its production was worth Rs. 6.59 crore in 1988-89.

Sonipat Co-operative Sugar Mills, Sonipat.—Set-up in 1977, this unit is being controlled by the co-operative management. Sugar is manufactured here. The Capital investment was of Rs. 590.18 lakh. During 1988-89 it gave employment to 767 workers and its production was of 1,81,955 quintals of sugar valuing Rs. 1,091.73 lakh.

The Gedore Tools¹(India) Ltd., Kundli.—This unit was established in 1974 for the manufacture of various varieties of goods, such as card board paper/paper carbons, polythene film bags, nuts and bolts, electroplating chemical and rubber moulded goods. It provided employment to 835 workers in 1988-89. Its production was worth Rs. 1.81 crore. The export during 1988-89 was to the tune of Rs. 66.99 lakh.

Haryana Breweries Ltd., Mural.—Haryana Breweries Limited is a limited company with its registered office at Murthal. The Marketing Division is situated at Delhi. It was registered on 14th September, 1970 and came into production from April, 1974. The company is managed by Board of Directors appointed by the Government/HSIDC. The main objects of the company are :—

- (i) to create employment avenues
- (ii) to manufacture beer and other allied products

Production.—The company is engaged in the manufacture of beer which is generally of two types, one being Lager and other extra strong Lager. It started production in the year 1974 with licensed capacity of 75 lakh bottles per year but looking to the great demand of its product in the country, the company has been trying to produce as much beer as possible.

Recently the pressure fermentation technology of brewing has been developed which has been successfully tried and accepted by several countries. Haryana Breweries is also one of the three breweries in the country to adopt this system and have installed four pressure stainless steel fermentation tanks which cut down the brewing cycle from 28 days to 7 days only. These fermentors have been installed and other matching facilities required like refrigeration, generating capacities, etc. have also been provided.

By adoption of this system, the company is likely to produce 1.6 crore bottles in a year out of which about 1 to 1.2 crores bottles produced only in the month of December to June, i.e. the season when the demand of the beer is high and in the remaining period regular maintenance is carried out without disturbing the production required to meet the market demand at that time.

1. Now Gedore Tools is known as Jhaland tools.

With this system, HBL, is in a position to produce about 2.00 crore bottles a year. During 1986-87, the production of 1.72 crore bottles have been planned, out of which the company already produced about 70.38 lac bottles in just 6 months i.e. April to September, 1986 which worked out to 188 per cent of the proportionate licensed capacity of this period. The details given below indicate the production and sale from 1982-83 to 1988-89 :—

Year		Production Lakh bottles	% to the licensed capacity	Sales lakh bottles	Sales % at to the production
1982-83	..	62.73	84	61.50	98
1983-84	..	70.40	94	70.29	100
1984-85	..	107.02	143	108.88	102
1985-86	..	146.55	195	114.16	78
1986-87	..	143.60	191	150.35	105
1987-88	..	113.74	152	110.29	97
1988-89	..	100.85	134	109.86	109

Marketing.—HBL is a quality conscious company. The product of this company has gained popularity through out the country. Table given above also contains the figures of sales and percentage of sales to production. Perusal of this table reveals that the HBL has been able to sell whatever it produced.

Exports.—The company is considering to enter into the export market also. There appears to be good chance for export to Middle East countries.

These large and medium scale units are engaged generally in the manufacture of grey alloys, iron-casting, bicycle parts, iron and steel products, ice plant and cold storage machinery, beer, malt juices, handtools, carpet yarn, lamps, and transformers, steel pipes, bicycles, mopeds, rubber-reclaim, sheet, glass, rubber-conveyor belts, gudgeon and piston pins, rexine, craft paper, food products/vegetable products and paper board.

The products of the following units are exported to the foreign countries :

Units	To the countries
M/s Atlas Cycle Industries, Sonipat	.. Various countries
Bharat Steel Tubes, Ganaur	.. Afghanistan, Iran, Nepal U.K., America and Australia
Gedore Tools, Kundli	.. Egypt and Saudi Arabia
Hilton Rubber, Rai	.. France and Holland
Bharat Leather Udyog, Nathupur	.. Kuwait, Tanzania and Poland
Hindustan Everest Tools, Rai	.. Asian countries
Rubber Reclaim Company of India, Bahalgarh	.. ..
Mercury Rubber Mills, Sonipat	.. U.S.A., U.K. and Australia
Plastikot Industries, Jatheri	.. ..

Due to export, these industries fetched Rs. 1,005.72 lakh from other countries during 1988-89.

SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES

Wooden products.—There are 450 units located all over the district. These units in rural areas make doors, door frames, window frames and other wooden agricultural implements. In urban areas also, the units cater to the needs of the people.

Agro-products.—Almost 950 units are engaged for the production of various items ; oil, oil-seeds, flour-milling, rice-shelling, rice-bran oil and straw board. These units not only cater to the local needs but the goods are also supplied to Delhi. The Sonipat town earns foreign exchange by exporting bran and neem oil. Due to its proximity to Delhi, there is a good market. There are also many resources which need to be exploited for their proper use.

Chemical and Rubber Wares.—There are 550 units which manufacture washing soap, dye and dye-stuff, candles, sulphur, rubber compounds and various rubber products. The district has a host of industries which export v. belts, tyres, tubes and rubber rolls. Many other units are engaged in the manufacture of medicines, thinner, paints, perfumes and plastic goods.

Engineering goods.—There are 1,170 units which prepare engineering goods, such as refrigeration machinery, road making machinery, scales, utensils, ACR conductors, casting goods, cables, agricultural implements, printing parts, helmets and scooter parts. There are many units which specifically cater to the needs of Atlas Cycle Industries.

The concerns at Sonipat manufacture surgical equipments like scissors and trays. Besides, there is an institution for imparting training in the manufacture of surgical instruments at Sonipat which is being run by the State Government.

A big assembling unit of USHA (Product) is working at Sonipat. Other units at Sonipat are engaged in the production of electric porcelain, miniature bulbs and insulated wires.

Sports and Leather Goods.—There are 50 units which produce sports goods, leather goods, bone meal and gelatine. Leather tanning industries are scattered through out the district.

Mineral based Industries.—Though the district is poor in mineral wealth yet the mineral-based industries of bleaching powder, stone ware pipes, bricks, chalk, crayons, stone-crushers, etc. are found in the district.

Textiles.—These are 613 units which manufacture textile goods. These units are engaged in making handloom goods, cotton yarn, velvet, *niwar* and *soot gola*. *Niwar* and tape weaving are mainly confined to Sonipat.

Miscellaneous Industries.—There are 751 units which are engaged in all types of works (servicing, repairing, printing material and optical cases).

The plants at Sonipat are engaged in the production of packing and wrapping paper like ice-cream packing paper. Gohana is famous for paper refining units.

Agro-based industries

Poultry.—Poultry farming though a remunerative occupation is not gaining popularity in villages. It is hoped that with the change of time and various incentives offered by the Government, this profession may gain considerable importance as a subsidiary occupation. Rai being on G.T. Road near to Delhi has a good scope for poultry farming.

Agro-service Centres.—The demand for tractors, tube-wells and other implements have shown an upward trend. The service centres for repair of the tractors and tubewells are available in every town. The shops for the supply of their parts are also available in the urban areas.

Cottage Industries

The traditional industries have been detailed in the first part of this chapter. Many cottage industries have been described there. Besides, the other industries on cottage basis are : **Ban-making**, *jutti*-making and making of mulberry baskets.

Leather footwear.—Desi type *jutti* manufacturers are scattered throughout the district. The places of main concentration are : Bega, Purkhas and Gumar. Gumar village has been selected as a focal point and a training centre will be opened here. This will help 200 to 300 families.

Oil-seeds crushing.—It is an important industry. Most of these units of composite type carry on this industry alongwith other various items of production. The main centres are Sonipat and Gohana.

Rope and ban making.—There are many units which produce rope and *ban*.

Gur and Khandsari.—The sugarcane crop is in the abundance. On the basis of plenty of sugarcane, many units exist for the manufacture of *khand* and *gur*. These units cater to the local needs.

The town-wise distribution of industries is as follows :—

Name of the town	Industries
Sonipat	.. Cycle manufacturing, mopeds, hand tools, trunks, steel furniture, steel gates, agricultural implements, glass-bottles, thermometres, manufacturing of malt juices, bricks, ceramics, chalk, cement pipes, Scooter-tyres, helmets, drugs, bakelite accessories, ban, oil, fruit processing, Conduit pipes, Paper, Springs, machinery for road construction, brusher, machine tools, iron-casting, scales, washing soap labels, switches and starters, biscuit and bakery, perfumes, sports goods, ball pens, ACR conductors, refrigeration goods, engineering products, agro-based and chemical leather, sulphur, tin container, watches, rice milling operations, sheet-glass, mirrors

1

2

tubes, transformers ;

Gohana .. Rice mills, agricultural implements, ceiling fans, mixies, *madhanis*, small agricultural tools, wooden furniture, cement *jallies*, soap, candles, plastic goods; oil and oil cake ; and

Ganaur .. Steel tubes, nails, steel trunks, rice milling, steel furniture, iron gates and grills, soap and wood works.

The year-wise details about the industries (large medium, small-scale and cottage) are given in the Table VII of Appendix.

Government Assistance to Industries :

The General Manager, District Industries Centre, Sonipat, looks after the industrial development in the district. He functions under the overall control of the Director of Industries, Haryana, Chandigarh.

The Government assists the entrepreneurs by giving cheap land on easy instalments, supply of machinery on hire-purchase basis, raw material at controlled rates, providing marketing assistance, technical and industrial training, common facility centres and financial assistance. These facilities are discussed below :—

Land/Industrial Estates.—In order to organise or promote the industrial activity, the allotment of land and industrial plots in the industrial areas are made to entrepreneurs on easy instalments.

The Government also helps them, by establishing 'Industrial Estates'. The object of such industrial estate is to assist the small-scale industrialists by providing them modern factory buildings of standard design, fitted with electric power and water connection. The immediate availability of ready-made factory building on rent or higher-purchase basis reduces the timelag between the planning and starting of industries and also saves the entrepreneurs from the blocking of their capital in land and building. The establishment of Industrial Estates also checks the haphazard growth of industries in towns and avoids the creation of industrial slums.

Two Industrial estates, one each at Sonipat and Rai, were established to assist those entrepreneurs who did not want to make heavy investment in factory building. The concerned industrialists were let-out sheds of various sizes together with the required power load and they immediately installed the machinery and started production.

Industrial Estate, Sonipat, was established in 1962 on an area of 3.15 acres. It has 18 sheds, 16 allotted to various industrialists and 2 to quality marking Centre, Sonipat.

Rural 'Industrial Estate,' Rai, was established in 1964. It is spread on an area of 2 acres and is located on the G.T. Road. There are 8 sheds ; out of which 6 were allotted to industrial units and remaining 2 to the Rural Industrial Development Centre, Rai.

Supply of Machinery or Hire-Purchase basis.—The National Small Industries Corporation, an agency of Government of India, supplies machinery to small-scale units on the recommendations of the State Government. The cost of machinery and equipment is realized in easy instalments, spread over a number of years, after an initial payment of 20 to 40 per cent of the amount.

Supply of raw material.—The supply of raw-materials like iron and steel, coal, coke, copper and zinc, is regularly made to quota-holders and deserving industrialists after proper assessment of their requirements. The requirements of the industrialists for imported raw material and equipment are assessed by the State Government and recommendations made to the Government of India for import licences.

Marketing assistance.—To provide marketing facilities to cottage and small scale concerns, the Government has started a number of emporia where products of these industries are displayed for sale. The State Government also organises industrial exhibition from time to time to achieve higher standards of work-manship.

Quality marking.—The quality Marking Centre for engineering goods was established at Sonipat in 1962 with the object of drafting standards for raw materials, semi-finished goods and products and ensuring conformity through quality control by stage and final inspections. The centre also renders assistance to units manufacturing goods. A large number of units are registered with it for assistance in respect of technical standardisation, export promotion and other facilities.

The 'Heat Treatment Centre' at Sonipat functioned upto 1964-65 and it was shifted to Faridabad in 1968. It supplied common facility in respect of heat treatment to various engineering goods.

Industrial Training.—The Department of Industrial Training and vocational Education, Haryana has opened various types of institutes for imparting technical training in the state.

During 1988-89, the following technical institutes were functioning in the Sonipat district :—

Serial No.	Name of the Institutes	No. of Trades	Sanctioned seats
1.	Industrial Training Institute, Sonipat	24	728
2.	Industrial Training Institute, Gohana	7	184
3.	Industrial Training Institute, Ganaur	2	48
4.	Industrial Training Institute (Women Wing), Sonipat	2	80
5.	Vocational Education Institute, Sonipat	2	160
6.	Vocational Education Institute, Kathura	2	160
7.	Vocational Education Institute, Purkhas	2	120
8.	Vocational Education Institute, Mundlana	2	80
9.	Vocational Education Institute, Rohat	2	80
10.	Smaj Kalyan Sabha vocational Institute, Gohana	2	32

The trained students from the above institutes are made available to industries for absorption as skilled/semi-skilled workers in respective trades.

There is an institute for imparting training in the manufacture of surgical instruments at Sonipat. It is being run by the State Government.

An Industrial Training Institute for girls at Gohana provides training in cutting and tailoring, needle work and stenography.

There is a Handloom Training Centre at Kharkhoda which imparts training in the manufacture of *khes*, bedcover, etc. This centre is next to Panipat in the field of handloom in the entire north India. Now a proposal for setting up a weavers colony is under consideration at Government level.

The C.R. State College¹ of Engineering, Murthal started functioning from the academic year 1987-88.

Financial Assistance.—After Independence, the provisions of the State Aid to Industries Act, 1935, were liberalised. A provision to advance loans upto Rs. 1,000 against a certificate of credit-worthiness was introduced for the benefit of village artisans and craftsmen.

The nationalised banks also advance loans to small-scale industries against the security of raw material, finished goods, etc.

Haryana Financial Corporation is engaged in extending financial assistance by way of long-term loans primarily for the benefit of new industrial ventures or for the expansion or diversification of existing concerns. All industrial units having or envisaging paid up capital upto Rs. 3 crore can seek financial assistance upto Rs. 60 lakh in the case of private or public limited companies or registered cooperative societies ; and upto Rs. 30 lakh in other cases.

The loans are also granted for rehabilitation of sick industrial units in the State. These loans are repayable in a period of 10 years with a grace period of two years.

In order to promote self-employment among technical entrepreneurs holding a degree or diploma in Engineering, loans are granted or advanced on liberal terms at reduced margin of 15% on the value of fixed assets offered as security. The corporation also advances loans to the ex-servicemen, physically handicapped persons, under 'Rural Industrial Programme' on liberal terms and concessional rate of interest.

The Haryana Financial Corporation disbursed a sum of Rs. 590.31 lakh upto 31st March, 1989 as loans to 174 units in the district.

Besides, the Khadi and Village Industries Board, Panchkula, advances loans and grants for the promotion of village industries. The loans and grants advanced by the Board in the district from 1984-85 to 1988-89 are given in the Table VIII of Appendix.

Special Incentives for the promotion of Industries

(i) Subsidy for the purchase of generating sets @ 1200 per KVA to SSI units and 600 per KVA for large and medium scale units subject to a maximum of Rs. 15 lakh.

(ii) Interest subsidy for technically qualified unemployed entrepreneurs ;

(1) The details of this College may be seen in the Chapter of Education and Culture.

(iii) Price preference to industrial units (20 per cent to tiny units in rural areas, 10 per cent to small scale units and 5 per cent to large and medium industries) ;

(iv) Priority letter for telephone connection for SSI units ;

(v) Exemption from electricity duty to SSI units for 5 years ;

(vi) Special concessions/incentives to non-resident Indians ;

(vii) Financial assistance of Rs. 15,000, Rs. 25,000 and Rs. 35,000 to the educated un-employed young persons between the age group of 18—35 ;

(viii) 10 per cent for RIS units of the project cost as seed money to small units at the rate of 4 per cent and 20 % for SSI under Government of India Scheme maximum limit of Rs. 20,000.

(ix) 20 per cent cash subsidy on fixed capital investment to rural industries, maximum limit is Rs. 20,000.

(x) 100 percent additional allocation of raw material to rural industries ;

(xi) Marketing assistance to rural industries ;

(xii) Exemption from payment of stamp duty and registration charges ;

(xiii) Exemption from octroi on raw material/finished goods of rural areas for a period of 5 years and on capital equipment/building material for 3 years ;

(xiv) Exemption from payment of purchase tax/sales tax for 2 years ;

(xv) Workshed subsidy to units under DIC promotional Scheme ;

(xvi) Availability of scarce raw material to needy units ;

(xvii) Tool kit subsidy to entrepreneurs under DIC Promotional Scheme ;

(xviii) Loans under weaver scheme to handloom weavers upto Rs. 5,000 and under cobbler scheme upto Rs. 1,000.

Rural Industries Scheme

The Government introduced a rural industries scheme in 1977 to remove unemployment in villages and to bridge the gap of urban rural disparities through the development of agro industries and small scale and cottage industries in rural area. Under this scheme any person who is literate and aged between 18 to 55 years can set up industry in rural area. The ceiling cost in plant and machinery should not exceed Rs. 2 lakh.

Self Educated Unemployed Youth Scheme. - Under this scheme, educated unemployed should be Marticultates or above and in the age group of 18 to 35 can set up any business, service unit or industry. The composite loan upto a maximum ceiling is Rs. 35,000. Under this scheme, Government provides 25% subsidy on the composite loan.

SOURCE OF POWER

Sonipat district did not have the facility of hydel power before 1947 and diesel power was used for flour-grinding, oil seeds crushing, *Dal* grinding and rice husking. Sonipat electric supply company established a power station at Sonipat in 1939 but it was closed down in 1953 when hydro electric power became available to the town.

After the formation of Haryana State, the hydro electric power supply to this area was controlled by Rohtak and Delhi Divisions of the Haryana State Electricity Board. Upto 1966-67, there was 33 KV sub-station at Sonipat. Now the district has two types (132 KV and 33KV) of sub-stations.

Before 1985-86, the boundaries of circles/divisions in the H.S.E.B. were not co-terminus with the revenue boundaries of districts/tahsils in Haryana State. However, during 1985-86, the H.S.E.B. re-organised its circle/divisions so as to match with the revenue boundaries.

Sonipat Operation Circle of H.S.E.B. covers the whole of Sonipat district, so far as districtwise boundry is concerned. It has following operation Divisions

- (i) City/'CP' Division, H.S.E.B., Sonipat ;
- (ii) Sub-Urban/'OP' Division, H.S.E.B., Sonipat ;
- (iii) Operation/Division, H.S.E.B., Gohana.

In 1989, there were three 132 KV Sub-Stations at Fazilpur, Ganaur and Gohana in this district and all were being fed from 2 No. B.B.M.B. Sub-Stations from Panipat and Narela. These 132 KV Sub-Stations are being fed from following 132 KV lines emanating from B.B.M.B. Grid :—

1. 132 KV Narela-Fazilpur line from 220 KV B.B.M.B., Narela Sub-Station ;
2. 132 KV Sewha-Fazilpur line from 400 KV B.B.M.B., Panipat ;
3. 132 KV Rohtak-Gohana line from 220 KV Dadri.

One No. 33 KV line is supplying power from 220 KV D.E.S.U., Narela feeding 33 KV Sub-Station at Kundli, Rai and Singhania Chemicals.

Following 33 KV Sub-Stations are located in various parts of Sonipat District as on March 31, 1989 :—

1. 33 KV Sub-Station, Sonipat ;
2. 33 KV Sub-Station Suraj Steel, Sonipat ;
3. 33 KV Sub-Station, Singhania ;
4. 33 KV Sub-Station, Rai ;
5. 33 KV Sub-Station, Kundli ;
6. 33 KV Sub-Station, Taipur ;
7. 33 KV Sub-Station Haryana Steel Alloy, Murthal (Sonipat) ;
8. 33 KV Sub-Station Engineering College, Murthal (Sonipat) ;
9. 33 KV Sub-Station, Kailana ;
10. 33 KV Sub-Station, Larsauli ;
11. 33 KV Sub-Station, Kathura ;
12. 33 KV Sub-Station, Farmana ;
13. 33 KV Sub-Station, Kharkhodha.

INDUSTRIAL LABOUR

During Partition, migration of skilled Muslim labourers was a setback to small-scale and cottage industries to some extent. This gap was filled by the displaced persons. Now industrial labour is drawn mostly from villages and most labourers return to their villages after work. The labourers of other states also make their living here.

Many industrial Training Institutes have been set up in the district to meet the demand of skilled labour.

The wages of the workers employed in the factories have been fixed under the Minimum Wages Act and an unskilled worker is paid Rs. 625 per month. However, some of the establishments are paying more to its workers. The semi-skilled or highly skilled labourers are getting Rs. 675 to Rs. 800.

The general condition/standard of living of the labourers is not satisfactory due to high prices and non-availability of housing accommodation. To overcome this problem, the employers are persuaded to construct houses for their labour under Subsidised Industrial Housing Scheme and to open fair price shops. However, a labour welfare Centre is being run by the Labour Department. The family members of the workers get training under the supervision of a whole time teacher.

The district is free from industrial unrest. There were 2 associations of employers (G.T. Road Manufacturing Association and Sonipat Manufacturing Association on March 31, 1989).

A list of trade unions of industrial workers is given in the Table IX of Appendix.

INDUSTRIAL CO-OPERATIVES

The development of industrial cooperatives is essential for healthy development of industries specially in the cottage and small scale sectors. Stress is, therefore, laid on the development of industries through cooperatives. The industrial cooperatives ensure that decentralisation of industry is accompanied by proper investment of techniques of production, procurement of raw material and marketing of finished goods.

The cooperative movement in the district has been finding its place in the industrial sphere also. The Assistant Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Sonipat, looks after development of industrial Co-operatives. He is assisted by two industrial Inspectors, one each at Gohana and Sonipat and 8 Sub-Inspectors, two at Gohana and six at Sonipat. The considerable progress has been made by industrial cooperatives in the district.

The following table shows progress achieved by such cooperatives during 1987 and 1989:—

		Year		
		1987	1988	1989
No. of Societies	..	151	145	141
Membership	..	2,014	1,951	1,861
Working Capital (Rs. in thousands)	..	4,789	4,690	4,314
Share Capital (Rs. in thousands)	..	2,287	2,214	1,974
Reserve and other funds (Rs. in thousands)	..	0.33	0.33	0.29

CHAPTER VI

BANKING, TRADE AND COMMERCE

HISTORY OF INDIGENOUS BANKING

The banking system in India has been practised since time immemorial. The *Vedas*, *Manusmritis* and Kautilya's *Arthashastra* bear good testimony to the existence and efficient working of banking in old days. The method of banking in force was old and partook more of money lending, money-changing and *hundi*-business but it served the agriculture quite adequately. In the 11th and 12th century, *hundis* were extensively used by Indian businessmen. The whole system was very much different from modern banking system. It was carried on by *Sahukars*. Their business was quite flourishing and they enjoyed reputable position in the society¹.

In the medieval time also, there was neither any change nor any development in the banking practices for which political insecurity was mainly responsible. The *Sahukars* occupied a very honourable position in the society and were in close contact with the rulers.

With the advent of the British, the old banking system declined. The *sahukar's* methods became outmoded and were by and large replaced by the modern system of banking.

Till 1912, the Sonapat tahsil of the district remained a part of Delhi district whereas Gohana and Ganaur were part of Rohtak district till the reorganisation of Rohtak district. In the whole of the North India, the *sahukar* (*Bania*) and agriculturist money-lenders controlled the village economy and the poor peasantry was at their mercy for all their social and economic needs. As a shopkeeper, the *sahukar* preferred to have a lien on the agricultural produce. He could in this way profit twice, once by buying cheaply from the producer to whom he had lent money, and then by selling it at a higher rate to individual consumers or in a *mandi*.

The indigenous system of banking was full of malpractices like high rate of interest, defective accountancy, etc. The *sahukar* used to safeguard his debt by keeping with him the agricultural land and the ornaments of his clients. The result was that once a borrower got into the clutches of the money-lender, he would live in debt and die in debt, leaving the debt to his next generation.

1. Sharma, A.G. *State in Relation to Commercial banking in the Developing Economy of India* (Delhi, 1968, pp. 53-54).

Rural Indebtedness

After 1870, when the land became more profitable investment, the *sahukar* began to tight on his financial hold in such a way as eventually to oust the rural debtors from their lands.

To improve the economic condition of the farmers, two Acts (Land Improvement Loans Act, 1883 and Agriculturists Loans Act, 1884) were enacted by the Government. The loans were advanced under the provisions of the Acts to the needy persons for the construction of wells, purchase of fodder, seed and bullocks; and for the hire of the latter. Many a *Zamindar* was not in a position during the drought to purchase a pair of bullocks; for an expenditure of Rs. 6 to Rs. 10 he could get his lands ploughed and sown and avoided the cost of maintaining cattle. It was often said that a series of bad harvests and the indulgence that Government had shown in the collection of its demands demoralized the zamindars of the area. There were many farmers who took advances in the hope that they would be a free gift but the Government recovered a large sum of money. In those days, the agricultural banks were practically unknown.

The rates of interest charged in the Gohana area were heavy, being seldom less than one pice in the rupee per month and often amounting to double this or to 2 per cent per mensem compounded six monthly or oftener. The bulk of money-lenders who did not require the security of the land were *baniyas* or less frequently *Bohras*. The *Zamindar* when he took to money-lending usually required possession as mortgage.

Fanshawe wrote about the position of indebtedness of the rural people in the Settlement Report of 1879; an extract is as follows¹ :—

“As a rule, the people are well-to-do and free from debt. The area which has been sold since last settlement is only 1.25 per cent of that cultivated, and the lands mortgaged amount to only 5 per cent of the same; even this figure is above the normal state of things, and has been brought about by the drought of 1877-78. The land hypothecated bears a debt of 6½ lakhs, or a sum about equal to two-thirds of a year's revenue, wet and dry. The indebtedness occurs largely in the Bangar and Rajput villages, and in some canal estates which have lived beyond their means. The ordinary rates of interest charged by the traders are : on the security of landed property 18 per cent, or in the case of large transaction, 12 to 18 per cent; on personal security,

1. *Gazetteer of the Rohtak District 1883-84*, p. 82.

24 to 30 per cent ; on the security of a crop, a quarter as much again as the advance made. The accounts are generally settled yearly, and many cultivators do not need to have any recourse to the money-lenders, even in the seasons of famine. These seasons add no doubt heavily to the debts of many for the time-being, but a Jat is by no means a lost man because he mortgages his land ; he and his sons are nearly sure to redeem it sooner or later. The people complain of course of the revenue demand to all new officers *Oghahi Karri*, "they say, the revenue is heavy"; but in their hearts they know that it is light, and I never found a single authentic of debt caused by the necessity of paying revenue alone, although of course this is always put forward as the first reason. Enquiry from the people themselves, in almost every village of the district, has shown me that as long as a family has its proper complement of workers, male and female, it is well-to-do. But where sons are idle, or the father becomes old while they are still boys and unable to work or dies leaving them to the mother's care, or where there is no woman in the family, or only a bad one, the home is certain to fall into difficulties. Marriage expenses, the cost of litigation, the loss of cattle and other special causes of debt, exist of course ; but by far the commonest causes are thus given above, which may be termed or natural ones, and debts resulting from which are generally paid off in the end".

In the Sonipat area, the land improvements for which loans were granted took the shape of wells. During 1902-3, a sum of Rs. 11,020 was given as loan in Sonipat tahsil. Under the Agriculturists' Loans Act, *Zamindars* could obtain advances for the purchase of seed or plough cattle. Previous to 1896 the advances were of quite a nominal nature, but since then upto 1905-6, droughts and famines forced the Government to provide loans to the farmers. A very small sum of money was advanced in Sonipat tahsil under the Agriculturists' Loans Act.

Till 1910-11, there were no agricultural banks and urban societies to provide loans to the needy persons. The villagers of Mohna (tahsil Sonipat) wanted an agricultural bank though they displayed unusual cohesion in consolidating their buildings and obtaining a repartition on a sound basis, yet they could get little success in setting up a bank due to the opposition of the *Bohras* (Money-lenders) of the village¹. In the Nahra Village in the same tahsil there was a slight movement in the same direction but of no use, as the people were not of one mind.

1. *The Delhi District Gazetteer*, 1912, Part A, p. 118.

The position of indebtedness prevailing before the passage of the Land Alienation Act, 1900 in the Sonipat area was as follows :—

“The debts could be attributed to three main causes:—

- (i) expenses incurred at weddings and funerals ;
- (ii) bad harvests involving shortage of food for men and consequent reduction in the number of cattle; and (iii) litigation. To what extent the three causes capitulated are severally responsible must be largely a matter of speculation, but it is clear that only the second is unavoidable, though it can be minimised by improvements and executive action in the directions of granting facilities for the import of grain and fodder. There is an apparent tendency to reduce unnecessary expenses at domestic festivals, but litigation must, until education has become far more general, be a potent factor in keeping the debt figures at a high level ; at the same time litigation is seldom the first step but is rather the outer layer of the snowball and the histories of the debts bear a sorry similarity. A small debt for necessities is temporarily met by a deed which proves unconscionable ; the parties drift into courts and the sacred law of contract is upheld ; interested advice is given till the debtor has tried his luck in the highest court and the downfall is complete.”

“The standard rate of interest between money lenders and *zamindars* is Rs. 2 per cent per mensem or 24 per cent per year, though, if a *zamindar* is in good circumstances, he will obtain money on better terms ; amongst themselves *zamindars* lend money at much lower rates, for example 12 per cent, and since the Jats especially lend money freely if they have it, probably 18 per cent is a fair average. A somewhat peculiar custom locally known as *rahti* exists by which petty sums of cash are obtainable ; a man will borrow Rs. 10 paying back the principal and interest in twelve monthly instalments of one rupee each.”

After 1870, when the land became a profitable investment, the money-lender began to impose such hard terms in his land mortgages that a mortgage nearly always ended in sale. Government arrested this faulty land policy by passing the Punjab Alienation of Land Act, 1900.

Mention has already been made of the fact that owing to the serious extent to which land was passing from the hands of the old agricultural tribes to these of moneyed classes; the Government was in 1901 compelled to place restrictions on the alienation of land in the Punjab. Under the Land Alienation Act, the Government in each district notified certain tribes as 'Agricultural Tribes' and classed as agriculturists for the purpose of the Act. All the persons holding land, who either in their own names or in the names of their ancestors in the male line were recorded as owners or as hereditary or occupancy tenants. A member of an agricultural tribe might not, without permission, sell or otherwise permanently alienate his land to any one who was not a statutory 'agriculturist' of the same village or a member of the same agricultural tribe or group of the tribes (for the present all the agricultural tribes of a district as counted as being in one group). Similarly, a member of an agricultural tribe might not mortgage land to any one who was not a member of the same tribe or group of tribes, unless the mortgage was in certain specified forms which fixed a limit to the period of usufructuary possession or else ensure the retention of the cultivating possession by the mortgagor¹.

Effects of the Act upon Money-lenders.—The *sahukars*, *sarafs* and *Banias* were debarred from acquiring mortgaged lands and were only entitled to their produce. From then onwards till the abolition of the Act (Land Alienation of 1900) in 1950, the class of agriculturist money lenders already existing came to fore and became more active in this direction.

The land-holders who had become rich on account of high prices, and ex-servicemen and retrenched service personnel who came home with money in their pockets turned into money-lenders. While the non-agriculturist money-lenders, deprived of land as a security, could only lend up to the limit of what could be repaid from the produce, the agriculturist money-lender to whom the Act did not apply, could afford to lend up to the value of the land.

The effects of the Act upon Peasantry.—It was assessed that the Act checked the underhand activities of the *sahukar* but did not help the peasantry much. The agriculturist money-lenders also exploited the peasantry as they liked gradually, the bulk of the mortgage debt passed into the hands of agriculturist money-lenders.

The following note about the rural credit after the passage of Land Alienation Act finds place in the *Delhi District Gazetteer*, 1912²:—

"The most striking feature, however, is the effect of the Land Alienation Act, whose opponents must now be numbered with the false prophets.

1. *Imperial Gazetteer of India (Provincial Series)*, Punjab, Vol. I, pp. 114, 115.

2. pp. 119-120.

The *zamindars* now sell and mortgage just as much land as they did before the enactment, they obtain better the prices showing that they have considerable resources of their own, and a much larger proportion of the mortgages are redeemed. Like all farmers the *zamindars* objected greatly at first to the Act on account of its novelty, but now that the benefits are being realised tribes excluded from its privileges clamour to be gazetted as agriculturists, adopting most amusing arguments and urging most nebulous claims to attain their object. Conditions under which transfers are made have varied considerably. In former days, the money-lender used to be the alienee almost as a matter of course, but now in the richer tracts they are plenty of well-to-do Jats and other agriculturists who will advance money freely. The non-agriculturists have still a considerable field for action in the poorer tracts which are held by sheikhs, and in some of the good villages which have previously passed into the hands of non-agriculturists, who in their turn have become impoverished. The Act has hit very hard the *Bohras*, who are always anxious to become landowners, but the petty village *Baniya* is not seriously affected as the management of an estate is not attractive to him and is only undertaken when he sees that there is no other hope of realising his dues."

In those days the people of Gohana area regarded the Act as the most beneficent measure of the Government passed within their memories. "if the Government had not stepped in", they remarked, "Our whole land would have passed on to the *banyas*".

The Government took various steps to counteract this position of indebtedness. Apart from setting up cooperative agencies, the Government regulated indigenous financing through various legislative measures, such as the Usurious Loans Act, 1918; the Punjab Regulation of Accounts Act, 1930; The Punjab Relief of Indebtedness Act, 1934, The Punjab Debtors' Protection Act, 1936 and the Punjab Registration of Money-Lenders' Act, 1938. But the money-lenders by-passed all these laws. They indulged in various mal-practices. Most transactions were either oral or against ornaments; promissory notes were obtained for a higher amount than what was actually advanced; even duplicate accounts were kept. All money-lenders did not obtain licences by getting themselves registered with the Deputy Commissioner.

Those who have made it as their side business, do not come forward for registration in the office of Deputy Commissioner. However, there were 5 licensed money-lenders in the district as on March 31, 1989

After receiving Central guidelines to the state to evolve a policy to remove rural indebtedness, a legislation had been enacted in Haryana in 1975-76. The 1976 Act had provided relief to debtors whose annual income was below

Rs. 2400. The Haryana Relief of Agricultural Indebtedness Act, 1989 also provides that the property pledged or mortgaged by a debtor would be released if his debt is considered discharged after he paid back a sum twice the original principal. The Act also says that the interest payable on the debt would be calculated at a rate of 10 percent of the prescribed amount from time to time for agricultural loans, depending on whichever is more.

The Haryana Relief of Agricultural Indebtedness Act, 1989, applies to both private and Government loans to any body engaged in agricultural activity. Haryana is the first state to provide relief of this kind to farmers.

General Credit Facilities

The credit requirements in agricultural and industrial sectors are increasing. Prior to Independence, the indigenous banking accounted for most of the borrowings. Although it still provides the bulk of the agricultural credit; yet the credit policy of the Government has been re-oriented to provide an effective alternative agency. Institutional credit system supported by adequate resources is combating indebtedness of the old type to a greater extent.

In addition to the cooperative agencies, institution like Haryana Village and Khadi Board provides credit facilities in the rural areas. The loans and grants advanced by the Haryana Khadi and Village Industries Board have been detailed in the chapter *Industries*.

The Government also advances *taccavi* loans for seed, cattle and agricultural improvements under the Land Improvement Loans Act, 1883 and the Agriculturists' Loans Act, 1884. The loans are provided to new entrepreneurs and others under the State Aid to Industries Act, 1935. Haryana Financial Corporation advances loans for the promotion of industry. It grants loans upto Rs. 30 lakh in case of limited company and registered cooperative societies and upto Rs. 15 lakh in other cases. It also gives foreign currency loans to industrial concerns for import of plant and equipment under World Bank Loan Scheme, where the cost of profit does not exceed Rs. 1 crore. The loans advanced by Financial Corporation, Haryana to the industrial sectors have been given the '*Industries*' chapter.

The *Kshetriya Gramin* banks have been set-up to provide loans to the needy persons for the purchase of buffaloes and other agricultural implements.

The government introduced a Mini Dairy Scheme during 1979-80 with the object of providing self-employment avenues to the educated unemployed youths. Under 20-point Programme such persons are provided with loans to start 3-Milch Cattle Scheme and 5-Milch Cattle Scheme. Under the above Schemes,

17 persons and 4 persons were given loans during 1981-82 and 1982-83, respectively. The 68 buffaloes during 1981-82 and 13 buffaloes during 1982-83 were purchased with such loans in the district.

JOINT STOCK BANKS

Upto nationalisation of banks (1969), there was a slow growth of Joint stock banks but thereafter more branches were opened in semi-urban and rural areas of the district. In March, 1989, there were 72 branches of different banks in various parts of the district.

Good banking facilities are available at Sonipat, Gohana, Ganaur and Kharkhoda. A list of main joint stock banks with their branches operating in the district as on March 31, 1989, is given in the Table X of Appendix.

These banks mainly open their branches where there is a scope for business. The State Bank of India with its branches at various places is the local agent of the Reserve Bank of India and government transactions are handled by it in this capacity.

During 1988-89, there were 83 (22 Public and 61 Private) Joint Stock Companies in the district. The deposits and advances mobilised by the commercial banks in the district as on December 31, 1988 were Rs. 164.61 crore and Rs. 99.11 crore. The credit deposit ratio of commercial banks on December 31, 1988 was of 60.2

Cooperative Credit

The Co-operative Credit structure in the State can be divided into two broad categories, i.e. short and medium term credit and long term credit

The long term credit is taken care of by two-tier structure having Primary Co-operative Land Development Banks at tahsil level/sub-tahsil level and Haryana State Co-operative Land Development Bank at State level. Short and medium term credit is provided by a three-tier structure consisting of Primary Co-operative Credit and Service Societies (Mini banks) at particular circle, Central Co-operative banks at district level and Haryana State Co-operative Bank at State level.

Salient Features

Short and Medium term loan

1. Short and medium term loans are provided for agricultural production and rural development.
2. The responsibility with regard to disbursement and recovery of loans and supervision thereof (financial earlier) has been transferred by the Co-operative Department to Central Co-operative Banks.

3. Cash Credit System has been introduced w.e.f. Kharif 1980.
4. The recognised viable primary societies are being developed into multipurpose societies.

Long Terms Credit

1. The long term loans are provided for such purposes as minor irrigation, water management, farm machinery, land development, horticulture, farm forestry, poultry, fishery, dairy development and all other similar activities.
2. The rate of interest for small and marginal farmers is 10% and for others it is 12.5%.
3. Now farmers can obtain loans upto Rs. 5,000 without mortgaging the land.
4. 65 percent of total loans advanced accounted for improving the conditions of weaker sections.
5. Special schemes for dry land farming are taken up.

The Co-operative movement started in the district with the enactment of the Punjab Cooperative Credit Societies Act, 1904, and the first cooperative society was registered in 1910. The cooperative movement gained momentum and made much headway with the passage of the subsequent Acts of 1954 and 1961 and 1984. In 1988-89, there were 182 cooperative credit Societies; of which 159 were agricultural and 23 non-agricultural credit societies.

The agricultural cooperative credit societies include agricultural thrift and credit societies, agricultural multi-purpose societies and agricultural cooperative service societies. The primary object of these societies is to assist the farmer to increase agricultural production and to play a major role in the development of rural economy by providing adequate facilities for short and medium credit for fertilizers, improved seeds, better implements, marketing and storage and extension of advanced agricultural techniques.

The non-agricultural cooperative credit societies comprise urban banks, employees credit societies and others catering to the credit requirements of the non-cultivating section in urban and rural areas.

Besides, the primary cooperative agricultural and rural development banks also advance the long-term loans to the farmers against the land mortgage for production purposes. Only 3 Primary Cooperative Agricultural and rural banks were functioning in the district during 1988-89.

Central Cooperative Banks.—There were 17 branches of Central Cooperative Bank in the district as on June 30, 1989. Such banks issue short and medium-term loans to individual members through cooperative societies and

provide financial accommodation to the affiliated cooperative societies for seasonal agricultural operations and the marketing of harvests. The details regarding liabilities and assets of such banks as on June 30, 1989 in the district are detailed below:—

(Thousand Rupees)

Liabilities	(Rs.)	Assets	(Rs.)
Paid up	22,286	Cash in hand	1,12,98
Deposits	1,79,669	Balance with banks in current account including all deposits	5,05,72
Reserves	9,264	Investment	36,31
Borrowings	13,71,100	Loans outstanding	27,16,48
All other liabilities	12,308	Interest	52,35
Total liabilities	3,60,627	All other assets	1,89,01
		Total assets	36,12,85

There was 1 Central Cooperative Bank in the district during 1988-89.

There were no indigenous high finance agencies in the district like commercial bankers' association or stock exchange.

INSURANCE

Private insurance companies covered life risk besides marine, fire, motor accidents and miscellaneous accident risks upto 1956 when the Life Insurance Corporation was established in the public sector. After this only General Insurance remained in the private sector. Before the formation of Haryana as a separate State, the companies working in the area for general insurance were: The Oriental Fire and General Insurance Company, Rohtak; New India General Insurance Company Limited, Rohtak; The Anand Insurance Company, Rohtak and the Northern Insurance Company, Rohtak.

With the nationalisation of life insurance business in 1956, the Life Insurance Corporation of India became the sole agency for life insurance,

The Life Insurance Corporation (L.I.C.) also entered in the field of general insurance in 1964 and it started a sub-office at Sonipat in 1966. The general insurance too was nationalised in 1971. Subsequently, in 1973 general insurance business was separated from life insurance and General Insurance Corporation of India was formed.

The Life Insurance Corporation of India opened a branch office at Sonipat on April 1, 1979 in view of the high potential. The life insurance business done by L.I.C. during 1984-85 to 1988-89 is detailed below:—

Year	Life Insurance	
	Number of policies	Sum Assured
		(Rs. in lakhs)
1984-85	2,801	552
1985-86	2,990	706
1986-87	2,895	852
1987-88	2,350	741
1988-89	2,662	928

Small Savings

National Savings offer a complete plan of savings to all types of investors and savers, regular assets, investment of accumulated savings for earning annual interest or compound rate of interest, alongwith capital on maturity encashment, a provident fund for self employed, a regular income after retirement. etc.

Post Offices Savings Banks, cumulative time deposits, recurring deposits (1-year 2-year 3-year 5-year time deposit), 7-year National Savings Certificates, 15-year Public Provident Fund, 6-year National Savings Certificates, 10-year Social Security Certificate, etc. constitute Small Savings Schemes. These schemes were introduced to instill the savings habit among people and to mobilise resources for a developing economy and at the same time these give them an opportunity to build capital assets out of their savings.

In addition to other functions, the small savings in rural and urban areas are also mobilised through the Post Offices. There were one head savings

bank, 35 sub-savings banks and 135 extra-departmental sub-savings banks in the district as on March 31, 1989. The table below gives the number of savings bank accounts and the amount deposited during 1983-84 to 1988-89:

Year	Number of Post Office savings Bank Accounts	Amount deposited (Rs. in lakhs)
1983-84	3,390	379.53
1984-85	3,592	422.04
1985-86	2,394	514.51
1986-87	4,089	547.63
1987-88	4,088	691.69
1988-89	4,975	853.26

The Deputy Commissioner, Superintendent of Post Offices and District Savings Officer are jointly controlling authorities of savings schemes in the district.

For the promotion of small savings, the National Savings Organization has posted a District Savings Officer at Sonipat. The other schemes of small-savings are discussed below:—

School Savings Bank Scheme (Sanchayika).—The scheme was introduced in the district in 1972-73. Almost all schools are covered under this scheme. The year-wise progress of the scheme is given below:—

Year	Total number of sanchayika	Students enrolled	Amount collected during the year (Rs. in lakhs)
1983-84	123	45,285	2.50
1984-85	136	52,255	6.35
1985-86	147	62,365	7.21
1986-87	147	62,365	7.47
1987-88	148	63,065	7.49
1988-89	155	77,940	8.26

Pay-Roll Savings Groups.—This scheme is boon for the fixed income-group and salaried persons. It is popular among the workers in the organised sector. District small savings officer persuades employers and employees in the public and private sectors to start pay roll savings groups in their establishments. Under this scheme, the regular deduction is made from the salary of the employee and is further credited to recurring deposit/Cumulative time deposit accounts at the post office.

This scheme develops the habit of savings and fulfills the needs of short-time necessity. The yearwise progress of the scheme (during 1983-84 to 1988-89) is given below:—

Year	Total groups during the year	Membership during the year	Collection during the year
			(Rs. in lakhs)
1983-84	174	23,116	49.91
1984-85	185	26,729	54.72
1985-86	212	30,909	89.20
1986-87	214	32,768	105.71
1987-88	218	34,428	111.32
1988-89	219	36,290	124.27

Mahila Pradhan Kshetrya Bachat Yojana.—The formerly known as Area Savings Leader Authorised Agency was introduced on 1st April, 1972. Under this scheme only women workers were authorised within a specified area for canvassing the deposits under C.T.D/R.D. accounts. Such workers earn commission at the rate of 4 percent on the deposits mobilised by them.

The yearwise progress from 1983-84 to 1988-89 is given below:—

Year	No. of agents during the year	No. of accounts opened during the year	Collections
			(Rs. in lakhs)
1983-84	30	3,076	27.72
1984-85	36	2,678	46.78
1985-86	41	3,495	43.97
1986-87	48	3,988	53.79
1987-88	50	5,673	93.09
1988-89	56	6,879	94.20

Standardised Agency System.—Individual and registered organisations are appointed as authorised agents under the Standardised Agency System for National Savings Schemes such as time deposits accounts and National Savings Certificates in the post offices. They contact the investors, convince them for deposits, collect money from them and deposit the collected amount in the post office. They help the investors at the time of withdrawal also. They are paid commission on the business booked through them. The details of the system is given below:—

Year	Scheme holders Collections	
		(Rs. in lakhs)
1983-84	72	357.61
1984-85	86	558.23
1985-86	96	598.32
1986-87	108	687.41
1987-88	115	797.92
1988-89	111	1,093.13

Extra Departmental Branch Post Masters.—There were 135 Extra-departmental branch post masters as on March 31, 1989. Till the beginning of 1973-74, some of them were authorised as agents under agency system, but afterward they were allowed to conduct small savings work. This is a very good scheme to popularise the savings in the rural areas and help the villagers in mobilising the savings. They are paid commission at the rate of 2 per cent for long-term security and 1 per cent on the net savings bank deposits at the end of March. The year-wise progress during 1983-84 to 1988-89 is given in the table below:—

Year	No. of extra departmental branch post masters	Collection made during the year
		(Rs. in lakhs)
1983-84	126	64.00
1984-85	130	55.00
1985-86	135	68.00
1986-87	130	64.00
1987-88	130	167.38
1988-89	135	155.29

CURRENCY AND COINAGE

Before introduction of decimal coinage in 1957, the silver coinage consisted of the rupee, the eight *anna* and four *anna* pieces and the nickel coins consisted of the two *anna* and one *anna* pieces, besides the copper pice. A rupee converted into 16 *annas* or 64 pice. The *anna* was equivalent to 4 pice.

The decimal coinage was introduced in the country from April 1, 1957, and it took time to become current. The conversion tables were displayed at all prominent places of money transaction. Naya paise, came to be called paise and pre-fix *naya* was dropped from June, 1964.

TRADE AND COMMERCE

In the 19th century, trade was confined to movement of grains, cotton, raw sugar, ghee and hides to the nearby markets of Delhi and Meerut by small traders and agriculturists. These goods were carried mostly in carts. The imports were chiefly cloth, tobacco, sugar, salt and hardware.

In the early 20th century (1912) the agricultural products from Sonipat area were exported direct to various markets. From Sonipat both chillies and *gur* were sent direct to Calcutta. From the canal region wheat was sent to Bombay. In those days Murthal (Morthal) and Kheorah villages (after tahsil markets) of the then Sonipat tahsil were considered the main markets.

The nature and direction of trade have since undergone change. In 1989, the usual articles of export were wheat, gram, *jowar*, *bajra*, *gur*, *shakkar*, oil-seeds, cotton seeds, chillies and green and dry fodder.

With the growth of industries in the recent past, the district has started exporting many products like bicycles, bicycle-parts, rubber goods, buttons, *Niwar*, steel tubes, glassware, sewing machines parts, tapes and medicines.

The Sonipat district has good commercial contacts with many other countries. The details about the main industrial units of the district which exported their manufactures in 1989 to other countries, are given below:—

Serial No.	Name of the Industrial Units	To the countries goods exported
1.	Atlas Cycle Industries, Sonipat	.. Many countries
2.	Bharat Steel Tubes, Ganaur	.. Afganistan, Iran, Nepal
3.	Gedore Tools, Kundli	.. Romania, Egypt, Saudi Arabia

1	2	3
4.	Hilton Rubber, Rai ..	France, Holland
5.	Bharat Leather Udhog, Nathupur	Kuwait, Tanzania, Poland
6.	Hindustan Everest Tools, Rai ..	Asian countries
7.	Rubber Reclaim Co. of India, Bahalgarh	..
8.	Mercury Rubber Mills ..	U.S.A., U.K., Australia
9.	Plastic Cot Industries, (P.) Limited	..

The district earned a sum of Rs. 1193.18 lakh due to export during 1988-89. The specific items of export with their number of units and value of exports are given in the table below:—

Items of export	No. of Units	Amount earned due to export
		(Rs. in lakh)
Handtools	2	463.96
Conveyor/V. Belts	1	35.79
Fairshed leather	3	125.00
Compressor	1	4.25
Steel tubes	1	202.26
Cycles	1	361.92

The buffaloes of this area are in great demand as far away as Bombay and Calcutta.

During 1988-89, the imported goods of the district consisted of cloth, tobacco salt, medicines, stone slates, iron and steel, coal, industrial raw material such as lithophone, dyes, raw rubber, latex, zinc oxide, sulphur, broken glass, soda ash and cotton-yarn.

Regulated Markets

To save the cultivator from the evils of unhealthy market practices and ensure fair price to the farmer for his produce, the Government regulated the markets under the Punjab Agricultural Produce Markets Act, 1961. All the usual course of trade in agricultural produce from producer to consumer is handled through middlemen who are wholesalers, retailers and commission agents or *arthtias*. Market committees representing growers, dealers, cooperative societies and the Government are set-up for these markets. These committees regulate sale and purchase of goods.

Each village of the district has been attached with one market or the other and the provisions of the Act are applicable to the whole of the area where transactions, delivery and weighment are done. Each market has a principal market yard. In addition, there are sub-market yards in the town itself or in adjacent villages. Some of the sub-market yards are occasionally prescribed for special commodities for facility of working.

The main arrivals in the main regulated markets are detailed in the Table XI of Appendix. During March, 1989 there were 3 regulated markets and 9 sub-yards in the district. The average number of villages served for regulated market was 110.

The usual course of trade in the district is through the secondary markets called *mandis*, where business is transacted daily. The produce is handled in large quantities and specialised operators perform different services. The sellers receive prompt payment in cash or by *hundis* from the commission agents. These *mandis* serve as assembling points for local produce or produce received from distant markets. Storage facilities are also available. From these markets (*mandis*), the goods are despatched to other consuming markets by the traders.

These markets provide a system of competitive buying, eradicate mal-practices and ensure the use of standardised weights and measures. They also provide uniform market rates.

All the regulated or unregulated markets are centres of wholesale as well as retail business. Certain markets specialise in certain commodities. For example, Sonipat specialises in *gur* and Murthal in chillies.

CATTLE FAIRS

Before the enactment of the Haryana Cattle Fairs Act, 1970, the cattle fairs were controlled, managed and regulated by the Panchayat Samitis concerned. The income accrued from cattle fairs used to be credited into Samiti Fund. On the enactment of the Act *ibid*, the right of holding of cattle

fairs vested in the State Government since 24th November, 1970. At present (1988-89) six cattle fairs are organised every year as 'per dates given below :—

Sr. No.	Name of cattle fair	Date of commencement
1.	Gohana	<i>Jeth Sudi Dasmi</i> (May—June)
2.	Gohana	<i>Kartik Badi Ashtami</i> (September—October)
3.	Gohana	<i>Posh Badi Dasmi</i> (December—January)
4.	Kharkhauda	<i>Asad Sudi Ashtami</i> (June—July)
5.	Kharkhauda	<i>Sawan Sudi Puranmashi</i> (July—August)
6.	Kharkhauda	<i>Magh Sudi Chhatt.</i> (January—February)

The dates of these cattle fairs are determined according to the Vikrami Samvat and therefore, do not fall on the same dates every year according to the Georgarian Calendar. The cattle fairs are organised with a view to offering facilities to the traders and farmers to purchase and sell their cattle. Most of the cattle trade in this district consists of buffaloes. Besides, bullocks, oxen horses, mules and donkeys are also brought for sale in these cattle fairs. Sellers and purchasers from the neighbouring States of Delhi, U.P. and Rajasthan come to transact the business of cattle in these cattle fairs. A fee is charged @ 4 Paise per rupee on the sale price of the cattle from the purchasers. Besides this, Rs. 2 are charged from the sellers for registration of the cattle, brought in the cattle fairs, on its sale. This transaction takes place through *Parchi* writers, who are engaged on commission basis.

The income of cattle fairs do not form part of State exchequer, which is kept separately in the personal ledger Account. After deducting all the expenses incurred on cattle fairs and the concerned establishment charges, the net income is apportioned between Panchayat Samitis and Government in the ratio of 80:20, which is spent only for welfare and development of cattle in the State.

The data regarding income accrued and expenditure incurred on these cattle fairs of Sonipat district from 1973-74 to 1988-89 may be seen in the Table XII of Appendix.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

Towards the close of 19th century, the weights and measures prevalent in the district varied from one part of the district to other. Though accounts were sometimes made up with the *map* 1½ maunds), *barola* 2 sers) and *matkana* (¼ Ser), yet no such actual measures of capacity existed.

The weights and measures prevalent in the Sonipat area during 1912 were as follows :—

“The weights used for ordinary purposes are according to the standard scale of *maunds*, *seers* and *chhattaks*. Dealers in ivory recognise the avoirdupois pound : jewellery is weighted by the common Indian weights called *chawal*, *ratti*, *masha* and *tola*”.

The English yard with its sub-divisions into feet and inches was in common use, but *darzis* sub-divided the yard into 16 *girahs*, on the analogy of 16 *annas* in the rupee or 16 *chhattaks* in the *ser*; *mistris* who required a small unit sub-divided the inch into 8 *sut*. Builders recognised as a unit a building yard (*Imarti gaz*) which was 33 inches in length and was sub-divided by them into 24 *tasu*.

The rural measure of the area was the *kachha bigha* which was 5-24 ths of an acre ; close to Delhi itself the people in speaking of the *bigha* referred to the *pakka bigha* which was 3 times the size of the *kachha bigha*. The unit of land measurement was the *gatha* of 99 inches.

Till 1941, there was no use of standard weights and measures. With the increase in the commercial and industrial activity in the country, this chaotic state created a sense of uncertainty in trade. This situation made it easy for the traders to defraud their customers. To remedy this evil the Punjab Weights and Measures Act, 1941 was passed.

The metric weights and measures were introduced in the district in October, 1958, under the provisions of the Punjab Weights and Measures (Enforcement) Act, 1958.

The Inspector, Weights and Measures at Sonipat supervises the accurate weights and measures, through frequent inspections and periodical stampings.

STORAGE AND WAREHOUSING

In villages, people store agricultural produce in houses, *kothas* or in bags. In markets, the commission agents and cooperative marketing societies

maintain godowns. Mills and factories maintain godowns at their premises to stock their raw material and finished manufactures.

Godowns maintained by private dealers and cooperative marketing societies were not of desired specifications. To organise better warehousing, the Agricultural Produce (Development and Warehousing Corporation) Act, 1956 was passed and later improved upon by the Warehousing Corporation Act, 1962. The Haryana Warehousing Corporation was established on November 1, 1967. It was authorised to acquire and build godowns and run warehouses for the storage of agricultural produce and other notified commodities.

In 1988-89, the Corporation was running warehouses at Gohana and Ganaur, Pugthala and Kharkhoda and total warehousing accommodation at these centres was 9,770 M.Ts. The rate of the storage charges was 90 paise per bag per month.

Besides, the godowns and warehouses run by the Food Corporation of India are as follows :—

Centre	(Figures in mts.)	
	Owned	ARDC
Sonipat	10,000	2,500
Gohana	21,930	..
Bandepur	..	20,000
Ganaur	..	5,000

CO-OPERATION IN TRADE

Marketing, Supply and Processing

The operations relating to marketing, supply and processing are undertaken by HAFED, the Haryana State Co-operative Supply and Marketing Federation at the state level. It is the apex institution under which the primary co-operative Marketing and processing societies work at mandi level. The Primary Co-operative credit and Service Societies, though an integral part of Co-operative Credit Structure, supplement the efforts of this sector by undertaking supplies of agricultural inputs.

Sallent features

1. Marketing of almost all agricultural commodities produced in Haryana; and
2. Supply of fertilizers, seeds and other agricultural inputs.

The Co-operative Marketing Societies were functioning at Sonipat, Ganaur, Kharkhoda and Gohana during 1988-89.

The membership of the cooperative marketing societies consist of primary societies and individuals. These societies facilitate the operations of the affiliated cooperative institutions and perform multifarious functions. They supply seed, manure, agricultural implements, etc. to the members; make arrangements for the marketing and processing of agricultural produce, primarily of its members; maintain godowns, undertake running of warehouses for the storage of produce and act as agents of the Government for procuring agricultural produce. They disseminate knowledge of the latest improvements in agriculture among its members and provide a news service to them about the market rates and allied matters. They propagate knowledge of cooperative principles and practices and undertake such other activities as are conducive to the attainment of these objects.

The membership and number of these societies from June, 1986-87 to March 1988-89, are given below :—

Particulars of Cooperative Marketing Societies	Position as on June 30. March 31, 1989		
	1986-87	1987-88	1988-89
1. Number	5	5	5
2. Membership	5,509	5,664	7,651
3. Share Capital (Rs. in lakhs)	14.55	14.32	14.92
4. Working capital Rs. in lakhs)	72.50	79.77	92.07
5. Owned funds (Rs in lakhs)	134.17	132.72	140.60
6. Business turnover (Rs. in lakhs)	1,007.18	387.42	375.45

Consumer's Co-operative Stores

Consumer's Co-operatives in Haryana are functioning in a three-tier structure, i.e. the primary co-operative consumers' stores, the Central Co-operative Consumer's wholesale stores and the Haryana state Federation of Consumer's Co-operative wholesale stores(Confed) at state headquarters.

To ensure better distribution of consumer goods, the consumer co-operative stores were introduced under a scheme sponsored by the Government of India in 1963. These stores perform an important function by helping the consumers to get their daily requirement at reasonable rates. These cooperative stores supply various goods of common use through cooperative

marketing and village service societies to the rural areas of the district. These also undertake wholesale business in sugar, foodgrains and controlled cloth. The major portion of the income is derived from the wholesale business which enables them to steady price. During 1988-89, one Central Co-operative Consumer's Store Ltd. was functioning. Besides this, confed Haryana is also distributing sugar, levy rice, imported oils and controlled cloth. Confed has one district office at Sonipat and area office at Gohana to handle wholesale and retail business.

Public Distribution System

Major fluctuations in the prices of foodgrains and the difficulties experienced by Consumers led to the introduction of P.D.S. For distribution of foodgrains and other essential commodities, initially the Government started a net work of fair price shops in urban and rural areas. With a view to ensuring availability of wheat, rice and sugar in open market for consumption by the general public, the Government issued various licensing orders. Prior to 1978, there were following three licensing orders for foodgrains:—

1. Haryana Wheat Dealers Licensing and Price Control Order, 1973 ;
2. Haryana Rice Dealers Licensing Order, 1978 ;
3. Haryana Foodgrains Dealers Licensing Order, 1977.

The State Government amalgamated the above mentioned three licensing orders and issued a combined licensing Order for dealing in all foodgrains including wheat and rice. This combined licensing order had been issued under the name and style of the Haryana Foodgrains Dealers Licensing and Rice Control Order, 1978. Besides, three licensing orders given below were also existing during the year 1978 :

1. The Haryana Sugar Khandsari and Gur Dealers Licensing order, 1978,
2. The Haryana Pulses Dealers Licensing Order, 1977;
3. The Haryana Edible Oil Seeds and Edible Oils Dealers Licensing order, 1977.

These orders were further amalgamated and a single composite Licensing order, namely, the Haryana Food Articles (Licensing and Price Control) Order, 1985 was issued in year 1985. According to the provisions of this order a

person is required to obtain a license for the commodities and quantity indicated against each as under :—

A. FOODGRAIN

1. Rice	4 quintals or above
2. Barley	—
3. Bajra	10 quintals or above for each foodgrains
4. Maize	—
5. Wheat	Exceeding 25 quintals
Total:	39 quintal or above

B. OTHER ARTICLES

1. Pulses	10 quintals or above for all pulses taken together
2. Edible Oilseeds	Exceeding 30 quintals
3. Edible oils	Exceeding 5 quintals all edible oils taken together
4. Sugar	Exceeding 10 quintals
5. Gur and Khandsari	Exceeding 100 quintals

Haryana Government further amended the Haryana Food articles (Licensing and Price Control) Order, 1985 on 24th May, 1988, and prescribed the following stock limits for the dealers of Wheat commodity :—

1. Two hundred and fifty quintal, in case of dealer ;
2. a dealer who owns a chakki driven with electric motor of less than 60 horse power, the storage limit shall not exceed one hundred and fifty quintals ;
3. a dealer who owns a chakki driven with electric motor of 60 horse power or more, the storage limit shall not exceed five hundred quintals ;
4. a dealer who owns roller flour mill, the storage limit shall not exceed two months grinding capacity.

The State Government also promulgated the Haryana Prevention of Hoarding and Maintenance of Quality (Orders), 1977 to check the hoarding of essential commodities and to regulate the supplies thereof.

For the purpose of distribution of foodgrains and essential commodities a system of fair price shops has been introduced. There were 340 such shops (80 in urban areas and 260 in rural areas) in various parts of the district as on 31st March, 1989. As on 31st March, 1989, there were 22 purchase centres in the district for procurement of wheat for the central pool. Sonipat, Ganaur and Gohana are the three main markets in the district where there are heavy arrivals of wheat and paddy.

Market Intelligence

Both buyer and seller must be well-acquainted with the demand and supply position in order to strike a fair bargain. This will mean from the producers' side a regulated flow of supplies to the *mandis*, from the dealers' point of view adequate arrangement for handling the produce and its storage, and on the transport side availability of the right number of wagons or other transport at the required time.

For efficient marketing and right coordination of the forces of supply and demand, authentic information about the volume of marketable surplus, prices, arrivals, stocks and movements of the more important agricultural commodities is very essential. Market news about the rates of commodities is disseminated to the public through boards displaying rates outside the offices of the market committees, radio news bulletins, newspapers, etc. Some market committees send daily information card to the *sarpanches* of the villages served by them.

Besides, the producers are always encouraged to approach the market committees for eliciting information regarding the marketing of the agricultural produce.

CHAPTER VII

COMMUNICATIONS

ROAD AND ROAD TRANSPORT

ROADS

A cross road line of importance runs from Kharkhoda going eastward to Bhagpat. Some of the heaviest traffic of the country side lay in the cotton, *gur*, and grain carts of the canal villages of Sonipat. The cross-country lines of road in that part of tahsil were often soft and rutty; often cut-up by wrong-headed water-courses and it was very difficult to cross them during the rainy season. Besides Grand Trunk Road (Sher Shah Suri Marg from Delhi towards Sonipat), the following table shows the important means of communications (roads/routes) in the Sonipat area :—

Route	Halting Place	Remarks
Delhi to Karnal	Rai	Police bungalow and encamping ground
	Larsauli	Ditto
Rai to Sonipat	Sonipat	Police bungalow

Besides, a small list of unmetalled (roads 1883-84) in the Sonipat area is given below¹:—

Unmetalled roads	Length (Miles)
1. Sonipat to Maniarpur ferry	11
2. Kharkhoda via Thana Kalan to Bhagpat	18
3. Sonipat to Bhagpat	12
4. Badli to Zafarpur via Sonipat	29

By 1912, there was some improvement in the roads. In addition to G.T. Road, Delhi city was also connected by a metalled road-Sonipat-Kharkhoda.

The position of the metalled roads in the Gohana area was not so satisfactory. The metalled roads were :Gohana-Rohtak (20 miles); Sampla-Kharkhoda-Sonipat (18 miles); Rohtak-Kharkhoda and from Gohana to Meham Kharkhoda and Safidon.

1. *Delhi District Gazetteer*, 1883-84, p. 144.

All the roads were usually in very fair condition and easy for the traffic of country carts except after heavy rain. The village roads, however, (called *gondhas*) were not good. As a rule, they were about as straight as a corkscrew and they lay below the level of the country. They were consequently badly flooded by rain or canal cuts bursting; they were perpetually being encroached on and occasionally a water-course or a trench was dug right across them.

Many of the unmetalled roads were strikingly broad but the heavy traffic of the country carts soon spoiled them and they were often bad for driving and riding alike. This might be possible when repairing them to raise a driving path on one side (separated by a ditch or mud embankment from the rest of the road) on which country carts could be tabooed and light traffic only allowed. The more important unmetalled roads in 1910 were as follows¹ :—

From	To.
Gohana	1. Panipat
	2. Sonipat
	3. Jind
	4. Hisar
	5. Meham
	6. Kharkhoda
Rohtak	1. Kharkhoda and on to Sonipat
Kharkhoda	1. Jhajjar via Sampla and Chhara
	2. Badli via Mandauthi

The account about the traffic on roads written by Mr. Fanshawe in the *Rohtak District Gazetteer*, 1910, is given below :—

“The lines that carry most traffic are firstly the Gohana-Rohtak road which in winter I have seen worn in the short space of two months by the heavy cotton-laden carts from a first-class motor track to a series of holes which would each shelter a litter of pigs. Secondly, Gohana-Bhiwani and Gohana to Panipat and to Sonipat roads also carried a good deal of traffic”.

1. *Rohtak District Gazetteer*, 1910, p. 136.

2. *Ibid*, p. 137.

The road construction could not make much headway till 1947. There was considerable expansion in road construction during 1951 to 1966. During the First, Second and Third Five-Year Plans, some new roads including the following metalled roads were constructed :

Name of the road	Length in	
	Miles	Km.
First Five-Year Plan		
Sonipat-Purkhas	8.86	14
Murthal-Memarpur	3.60	5
Ganaur-Khubru	4.46	7
Sonipat-Rathdhana	2.28	4
Kharkhoda-Bhagpat	3.15	5
Sonipat-Gohana	17.72	28
Sampla-Kharkhoda	11.30	18
Second Five-Year Plan		
Sonipat-Gohana (Extension)	4.28	7
Gohana-Khanpur	3.00	5
Third-Five Year Plan		
Sonipat-Bhatgaon	2.00	4
Approach road to Badh Khalsa from G.T. Road	0.95	1

In 1970, the State Government took a historic decision to embark upon a crash programme of linking every village with a metalled road.

With the increase in agricultural production, the State Government in June, 1974 also decided upon mobilising resources of the Market Committees in the form of their contribution towards construction of roads. Previously, the Market Committees used to contribute the specific roads in their marketing areas but since then they were expected to subscribe substantially to the construction of link roads in the whole of the district. This was designed to generate a better rural economy by enhancing the area of road transportation and free up and down movement of the villagers.

The phased progress of road construction during 1978-79 to 1988-89 is detailed below :—

Year	(Kilometres)
1978-79	892
1979-80	934
1980-81	946
1981-82	970
1982-83	999
1983-84	1,008
1984-85	1,018
1985-86	1,032
1986-87	1,044
1987-88	1,061
1988-89	1,068

The incidence of length of metalled roads (surfaced and unsurfaced) per hundred square kilometres of area stood at 40.43 in 1978-79 ; 42.34 in 1979-80 ; 42.88 in 1980-81 ; 43.97 in 1981-82 ; 45.28 in 1982-83 ; 45.69 in 1983-84 ; 46.15 in 1984-85 ; 46.78 in 1985-86 ; 47.32 in 1986-87 ; 48.10 in 1987-88 and 48.41 in 1988-89. The roads have been classified as :

1. National Highways
2. State Highways
3. Major district roads
4. Village roads

A brief description of important roads passing through the district is given below :—

National Highway

Grand Trunk Road (N.H. 1).—This is the oldest road and passes through the eastern part of the district. It enters the district from Delhi side

at 29.295 kilometres near Kundli village and leaves the district at 60 kilometres near village Bakherpur towards Panipat. It runs almost parallel to the Delhi-Ambala Railway line. There is no other national highway in the district except this stretch of 36.705 Kms. The road is metalled and has double lanes having width of 22 feet (6.70 metres) from kundli border to Murthal border. The National Highway is being widened to the four-lane highway. The project is being executed under the World Bank Project. The road connects Delhi with Haryana, Punjab and also caters all the traffic bound for Himachal Pradesh and Jammu Kashmir. This road is very important from the Defence point of view.

State Highways

Meerut-Sonipat-Gohana-Asandh-Kaithal-Patiala Road (S.H. 1F).—This road provides a short and direct route from Meerut to Patiala via Sonipat, Gohana and Jagsi. It starts from Meerut and enters the district at 52.03 kilometres near village Tanda and Jagdishpura on eastern side and leaves at 127.20 kilometres near Jagsi village. It is metalled and bitumen-surfaced. The road covers a distance of 70.55 kilometres in the district.

Panipat-Gohana-Rohtak-Bhiwani Road (S.H. 16).—The total length of the road in the district is 29.93 kilometres. It enters the district at 42.83 kilometres near village Chirana on eastern side and leaves it at 72.76 kilometres near Chilaur Kalan. Whole road is metalled and bitumen surfaced. The road Connects Shamli in U.P. on its eastern side (passing through Karnal district) to Sonipat, Rohtak and Bhiwani. It runs through the district from north-east to south-west and crosses other important highways like Meerut-Sonipat-Gohana and Rohtak-Kharkhoda-Delhi in the district.

Gohana-Lakhan Majra-Meham-Chang-Bhiwani Road (State Highway 16-A).—The total distance covered by this road in the district is 16.00 kilometres. It starts from Km. 107.86 to Panipat-Gohana-Rohtak road and leaves it at 16.00 kilometres. The whole length of the road is metalled and bitumen surfaced. The road connects Gohana with Bhiwani by shortest route.

Murthal-Sonipat-Kharkhoda-Sampla-Jhajjar-Jahajgarh-Chuchhakwas-Dadri-Loharu Road (S.H. 20).—The total length covered by this road in the district is 29.71 kilometres. The road starts from 8.80 kilometres from G.T. Road (Murthal Chowk) and leaves the district at 39.60 kilometres near village Rohna-Barona. It runs through the district from north-east to west through Sonipat and Kharkhoda. The whole length of the road is metalled and bitumen surfaced.

Rohtak-Kharkhoda-Delhi Border Road (S.H. No. 18).—This road covers a distance of 19.00 Kilometres in the district. It enters the district at 22.20

Kilometres to 31.75 Kilometres and 32.55 Kilometres to 42.00 Kilometres near village Sisana and leaves at 42.00 Kilometres near village Nizampur Khurd. Its 0.80 Kilometre length is part of State highway No. 11. This road is alternative route of S.H. 10. from Rohtak to Delhi via Kharkhoda. Total length of the road is metalled and bitumen surfaced.

Other roads

These include the major district roads like Ganaur-Shahpur road and G.T. Road to Jatheri-Bahadurgarh road and other village link roads. The major district roads provide important link with different towns and villages of the district.

A total metalled road length maintained by P.W.D. (B.&R.) Department in the district as on March 31, 1989 was 1,068 Kilometres including national highway and 106 Kilometres un-metalled.

Canal Inspection Roads

There are well maintained un-metalled inspection roads along the banks of the canals. These roads can serve only light vehicular traffic. These are maintained by the Irrigation Department and are not meant to be used by the general public.

Road Transport

Vehicles and conveyances.—In the long past, the means of communication being poor in most parts of the country, life was restricted to villages. The requirements of the people were limited. Only on rare occasions like visits to holy places most of the people used to go on foot from one place to another. The country carts were also used by the common people for moving from village to village. *Raths* and horses were maintained by the well-to-do persons.

With the passage of time and improvement in communications, the modes of conveyance also improved. *Ekkas* and bamboo carts appeared to supplement country carts. Camel carts and four-wheeled carts drawn by bullocks also came into use for transporting passengers and goods. As villages and towns were linked together by metalled roads, better vehicles also came into use. Rubber-tyre tongas, drawn by one or two horses, became one of the swift means of conveyance. Later, appeared cycles, motor cars and trucks. At that time numerous means of transportation by road available in the district comprise *thelas* and hand carts, horses and donkeys, camels, tongas, bicycle, rickshaws, motor-cycles, jeeps and station wagons, motor-cars, buses, tempos and trucks. Slowly and steadily, the modern swift and cheap means of conveyance are becoming more popular. Tempos, which appeared only some years ago, are now becoming very popular especially in rural areas.

The number of different types of motor vehicles registered in the district during 1973-74 was 397 which increased to 20,912 in 1987-88. The details about different types of motor vehicles registered in the district in 1973-74 and 1987-88 are as follows :—

Type of vehicles	Year	
	1973-74	1987-88
Cars	27	679
Jeeps	13	276
Trucks	40	1,728
Taxis	1	1
Tractors	180	8,465
Buses	1	192
Motor-cycles/Scooters	70	8,665
Auto Rickshaws	4	646
Miscellaneous	61	260
Total :	397	20,912

The above table indicates the enormous increase in the number of trucks and tractors in the district. This shows the increasing trend in business and mechanised farming in the district.

Passengers Transport

Before nationalisation of transport services (1972), the following transport companies (private) besides State transport undertakings operated their bus services in the district :

Name of the transport undertaking	Route
1. Karnal-Kaithal Co-operative Transport Society Ltd., Karnal	Sonipat-Kaithal via Assandh
2. Karnal Co-operative Transport Society, Ltd., Karnal	Rohtak-Gohana Kaithal-Sonipat Sonipat-Gohana Murthal-Rohtak Murthal-Jhajjar Panipat-Rohtak

1	2
3. Rohtak-Delhi Transport (P) Ltd., Rohtak	.. Kharkhoda-Delhi
4. Rohtak-Gohana Bus Service (P) Ltd., Rohtak	.. Rohtak-Gohana Rohtak-Panipat Sonipat-Gohana Sonipat-Delhi
5. Rohtak General Transport Co. (P) Ltd., Rohtak	Rohtak-Gohana
6. Satnam Transport Co. (P) Ltd., Rohtak	.. Rohtak-Sonipat Rohtak-Gohana Gohana-Panipat Gohana-Kheri Khera Gohana-Meham Gohana-Sonipat Sonipat-Delhi
7. Zamindara Bus and Transport Co. (P) Ltd., Rohtak	Rohtak-Sonipat
8. Gohana Co-operative Transport Society Ltd., Gohana	Gohana-Julana
9. Rohtak District Co-operative Transport Society Ltd., Rohtak	Sonipat-Delhi
10. Ithad Motor Transport (P) Ltd., Delhi	Delhi-Sonipat-Panipat
11. Rohtak-Haryana Transporters (P) Ltd., Rohtak	Rohtak-Sonipat Sonipat-Bhagpat Sonipat-Kaithal via Assandh
12. Matanhail Ex-servicemen Co-operative Transport Society Ltd., Rohtak	Gohana-Kharkhoda
13. Bahu-Janta Co-operative Transport Society Ltd., Rohtak	Rohtak-Sonipat via Farmana-Gohana- Kharkhoda
14. Butana Ashoka Co-operative Transport Society Ltd., Gohana	Gohana-Jagsi-Urlana

The passengers transport by road in Haryana was nationalised in stages during April, 1970 to November, 1972. A full-fledged depot was opened at Sonipat on October 22, 1979. The Haryana Roadways, Sonipat had a fleet of 68 buses at the time of creation of full-fledged depot and the daily coverage by the buses was 17,000 Kilometres. The total number of buses of Sonipat depot as on March 31, 1989 was 148.

A sub-depot at Gohana was established on October 22, 1979 with a workshop attached thereto. The total number of buses as on March 31, 1989 was 68.

Buses of other depots of Haryana roadways, Delhi Transport Corporation, Rajasthan State Road Transport Corporation U.P. Roadways and private transport pass through the district. Besides the buses of Sonipat depot and Gohana sub-depot, the buses of other depots along with their routes are given below :

Transport Undertaking (operating through Sonipat District)	Route
1. Ithad Bus Service	.. Delhi-Panipat
2. D.T.C.	.. Delhi-Chandigarh
3. Chandigarh Transport Undertaking	.. Chandigarh-Sonipat
4. Haryana Roadways, Rohtak	.. Rohtak-Sonipat
5. Haryana Roadways, Gurgaon	.. Gurgaon-Ambala
6. Haryana Roadways, Delhi	.. Delhi-Sonipat Delhi-Khar Khoda Delhi-Jind
7. Haryana Roadways, Hisar	.. Hisar-Sonipat
8. Haryana Roadways, Sirsa	.. Dabwali-Sonipat
9. Haryana Roadways, Bhiwani	.. Bhiwani-Sonipat
10. Haryana Roadways, Faridabad	.. Faridabad-Sonipat via Delhi Faridabad-Gohana

1	2
11. Haryana Roadways, Jind	.. Jind-Delhi Jind-Gohana Safidon-Gohana
12. Haryana Roadways, Kaithal	.. Kaithal-Delhi Kurukshetra-Jhajjar Kaithal-Sonipat
13. Haryana Roadways, Karnal	.. Karnal-Hisar Panipat-Rohtak
14. Haryana Roadways, Yamunanagar	.. Yamunanagar-Rohtak
15. Haryana Roadways, Chandigarh	.. Chandigarh-Sonipat Chandigarh-Rohtak Chandigarh-Pilani Chandigarh-Narnaul
16. Chandigarh Transport Undertaking	.. Chandigarh-Rohtak- Bhiwani
17. Punjab Roadways	.. Chandigarh-Rohtak
18. Rajasthan State Roadways Transport Corporation	Chandigarh-Jaipur
19. Private Bus Service/U.P. Roadways	.. Hardwar-Rohtak
20. Haryana Roadways, Bhiwani	.. Bhiwani-Chandigarh- Hardwar
21. Haryana Roadways, Rewari	.. Rewari-Hardwar Rewari-Chandigarh
22. Haryana Roadways, Rohtak	.. Rohtak-Panipat Rohtak-Chandigarh Rohtak-Hardwar
23. Haryana Roadways, Ambala	.. Ambala-Rohtak
24. Haryana Roadways, Sonipat	.. 1. Sonipat-Agra 2. Sonipat-Mathura 3. Sonipat-Alwar 4. Sonipat-Jaipur

1

2

5. Sonipat-Pilani
6. Sonipat-Hardwar
7. Sonipat-Delhi-
Chandigarh-Kalka
8. Sonipat-Delhi-
Chandigarh
9. Sonipat-Delhi-
Pathankot
10. Sonipat-Delhi-
Bharatpur
11. Sonipat-Delhi
12. Sonipat-Gurgaon
13. Sonipat-Jhajjar
14. Sonipat-Rewari
15. Sonipat-Narnaul
16. Sonipat-Gohana
17. Sonipat-Dabwali
18. Sonipat-Elnabad
19. Sonipat-Narwana
20. Sonipat-Kaithal-
Cheeka
21. Sonipat-Kuruksbetra
22. Sonipat-Panipat
23. Sonipat-Ambala
24. Sonipat-Yamuna
Nagar
25. Sonipat-Rohtak



1

2

	26. Sonipat-Hisar
Haryana Roadways, Gohana (Sub-Depot) ..	1. Gohana-Chandigarh
	2. Gohana-Mathura
	3. Gohana-Delhi
	4. Gohana-Panipat
	5. Gohana-Ambala
	6. Gohana-Jind
	7. Gohana-Safidon
	8. Gohana-Hisar
	9. Gohana-Bhiwani
	10. Gohana-Dadri
	11. Gohana-Palwal
	12. Gohana-Hodal

There is no De-luxe bus service within the district but the de-luxe and air-conditioned buses from Delhi to Chandigarh pass through it.

Goods Transport

The goods traffic is handled by private owners. The number of trucks registered in the district as on March 31, 1988 was 1,728 while 40 trucks were registered during 1973-74. The trend in the registration of more public carriers is an evidence of increasing popularity of transport of goods by road. As compared to the railways, the freight and incidental charges are less if goods are transported by road. Consequently, goods transport has sufficiently diverted to roads, particularly for short distances. Moreover, the rural sector which is actively participating in economic activities, relies much more on road traffic than rail traffic. The booking agencies for the transport of goods by road are scattered all over the district at important places. These cater to the needs of both the operators and the traders. The operators are provided with parking, godown and warehouse facilities and the traders with a regular satisfactory transport service. Easy availability of trucks has inspired the

traders to prefer goods to be transported by road for long distances, as the goods are delivered quicker and with less risk. Claims for the loss of goods sent by the road are also settled more promptly than in case of railways.

Private operators have organised into Unions to reduce competition to regulate traffic and share profits.

The following truck Unions existed in the district :—

1. Sonipat Truck Operators Union, Sonipat
2. Sonipat Truck Operators Union, Kharkhoda
3. Sonipat Truck Operators Union, Murthal
4. Sonipat Truck Operators Union, Ganaur
5. Gohana Truck Operators Union, Gohana

Besides above Unions, there were 4 four-wheeler Unions and two small truck operators Unions.

RAILWAYS

The district is exclusively served by the Northern Railway. A brief description of the railway lines existing in and passing through the district is given below :—

Delhi-Ambala-Kalka Railway Line.—This is the oldest railway line in the district. This railway line passing through Sonipat, was completed and opened for traffic on October 14, 1870. This line runs almost along the Grand Trunk Road. Entering the district near Rathdhana it passes through Sonipat, Sandal Kalan and Ganaur and leaves the district after covering about 16½ miles (26.4 kilometres).

The railway stations within the district from Panipat side towards Sonipat side were : Ganaur, Rajlu Garhi halt, Sandal Kalan, Sonipat, Harsana Kalana halt and Rathdhana.

Rohtak-Panipat Railway line.—It is a broad gauge railway line. The Rohtak-Panipat Railway Line, opened in 1927, was closed down in 1942 being uneconomic. In view of importance of Gohana as a surplus area in food-grains, a portion of the line from Rohtak to Gohana was relaid and a shuttle service was revived in 1959. The railway line from Gohana to Panipat was again linked on 8th April, 1977.¹

1. Ekta Express from Bhawani to Kalka, was started on 12 Feb. 1985.

The railway stations within the district from Rohtak side towards Panipat were : Rukhi halt, Bhainswal, Gohana, Sarsadh halt and Mundlana.

FERRIES

The Yamuna forms the eastern boundry of the district and separates it from Uttar Pradesh. During the rainy season, some villages lying along the Yamuna are Cut off and can only be reached by boats. Ferry service was maintained on the three points namely, Mimarpu, Dahisra and Baroli upto 1987-88. Dhisra Ghats has not been auctioned since 1988-89 as per Government orders. The Ghats are auctioned and the highest bidder is allowed to ply his own boats. The contractor is required to keep the boats in proper condition.

Ghat-wise amount derived from lease since 1980-81 is given as under :—

Year/Period	Amount earned/Name of Ghats		
	Mimarpu	Dahisra	Baroli
	(Rs.)	(Rs.)	(Rs.)
1980-81 to 1982-83	.. ..	..	86,000
1982-83	.. ..	15,000	..
October, 1982 to September, 1985	.. 5,40,000	..	..
1983-84	.. ..	13,000	..
1983-84 to 1985-86	.. ..	..	87,000
October, 1985 to September, 1987	.. 4,11,000	..	..
1984-85	.. ..	8,000	..
1985-86 to 1987-88	.. ..	24,500	..
1986-87 to 1988-89	.. ..	..	54,000
October, 1987 to September, 1989	.. 5,36,000	..	..

The ferries transport foodgrains i.e. Wheat, Bajra, Gram, etc. when there is no restriction on the movement of these grains. The service also covers the transportation of passengers, animals, cattle and motor vehicle both loaded and unloaded.

At present two ghats namely, Mimarpur and Baroli are functioning.

Facilities for travellers

For people visiting either on business or otherwise, there are *paras* or *chaupals* in the villages and *dharamsalas* and hotels in the towns besides rest houses.

The village *paras* or *chopal* is an institution of considerable importance in the villagers' life. Generally, it is a *pukka* building made of bricks or stone with handsomely carved woodwork. Some of the *chaupala* are decorated in the rustic fashion with figures of Lord Rama, Lord Krishna, animals like tigers, horses and elephants and objects like railway trains painted on walls.

In towns, *dharamshalas* have been provided by the religious-minded and generous persons. Recently, some private hotels have sprung up and these cater to the demands of all types of visitors to the district.

A network of rest houses is spread through out the district. The list of rest houses and *dharamsalas* is given in the Table XIII of Appendix.

POSTS, TELEGRAPHS AND TELEPHONES

POSTS

During 1883-84, there were imperial post offices at Butana, Gohana, Kharkhoda and Mundlana in Gohana area of the district. There were money order offices and savings banks at Gohana and Kharkhoda. There was no telegraphic communication at that time (1883-84).

The post offices were formerly controlled by the Superintendent, Southern Division, Rewari, but in 1927, a Superintendent of Post Offices was appointed at Rohtak. There was a sub-post office at Gohana under the head post-office, Rohtak. Besides, there were other post offices. From the head post-office, there were three deliveries and three despatches daily.

There were two lines of horse dak running from Delhi to Karnal and Rohtak. They were run by a contractor who was given a subsidy for it by the Government. In the Sonipat area of the present district there were imperial post offices at the following places during 1883-84 :-

1. Larsauli
2. Rai
3. Sonipat

Money-orders were issued at these places and savings banks were established. Indian postal notes for small sums could also be obtained.

After Independence, the postal facilities increased rapidly in whole of the country. The Sonipat postal division came into existence on August 16, 1980. Prior to this, it was part of the Rohtak postal division. The number of post offices in the district as per Census Handbook (1981) was 160. The number of post offices increased to 194 and 199 in 1987-88 and 1988-89 respectively. During 1988-89, 192 post-offices had the P.C.O. facilities in the district.

All the villages of the district have daily delivery service except Sunday and postal holidays. Mail in Sonipat town is delivered once on all the days of the week except Sunday and postal holidays.

Telegraphs

In 1910, Gohana was served by the telegraph office and it was of course possible to telegraph from all railway stations. But it was quicker to walk than to wire. The Canal Department also maintained a private line of telegraph between Delhi, Rohtak and all main junctions of **rajbahas**.

Telegraphic facilities considerably improved after Independence. In 1960, such facilities were available at Butana, Ganaur, Gohana, Gohana Mandi, Kharkhoda, Murthal, Sonipat, Sonipat (Model Town), Sonipat Mandi and Kathura.

A list of telegraph offices in the district is given below :-

1. Sonipat (Head Office)
2. Atlas Cycle, Sonipat
3. Bhim Nagar, Sonipat
4. Ganj Bazar, Sonipat
5. Model Town, Sonipat
6. Ram Bazar, Sonipat
7. Sonipat Mandi
8. Sonipat Courts
9. Bahalgarh
10. Baroda
11. Bhatgaon
12. Bhainswal Kalan
13. Butana
14. Farmana
15. Ganaur
16. Gohana (Sub-Office)
17. Gohana Mandi-Gohana
18. Jakhauli
19. Juan

20. Kharkhoda
21. K.G. Khanpur
22. Kundli
23. Murthal
24. Mundlana
25. Nahri
26. Rai
27. Purkhas
28. Rohat

Telephones

During 1988-89, the telephone exchanges were functioning at the following places :

Serial No.	Name of Exchange	Year of establishment
1	Sonipat	.. 1950
2	Gohana	.. 1958
3	Ganaur	.. 1960
4	Kharkhoda	.. December, 12, 1969
5	Murthal	.. March 25, 1982
6	Khewra	.. March 31, 1983
7	Siwanamal	.. February 23, 1982
8	Kathura	.. January 10, 1982
9	Khanpur Kalan	.. March 1, 1987

Radio and Wireless Stations

There is a Police control room for receiving and transmitting messages. It remains open for 24 hours by shifts. There is a provision for receiving and transmitting messages in all the police stations and police lines in the district.

CHAPTER VIII

MISCELLANEOUS OCCUPATIONS

The chapter deals with miscellaneous occupations which do not fall in major categories, viz agriculture, industry, transport, communication, etc. These occupations cover a wide range of public and private services and constitute a significant part of daily life. The occupations in the district are similar to occupations in other parts of the State. The occupations, here described include Government service, defence services services in private sector and self employed persons.

PUBLIC SERVICES

Employment in Government service is highly valued for its prestige, security of service and housing facilities. The pay is also comparable to other sectors and dearness allowance has been linked with costs of living. Government housing is a substantial facility for Government servants. Besides, Government servants are given free medical facilities for indoor treatment and for outdoor treatment fixed medical allowance of Rs. 30 per month is given, while public sector employees are given medical allowance or reimbursement. To provide for retirement, the Government servants contribute to general provident fund, while public sector employees have contributory provident fund. The employees are also given gratuity on retirement, based on length of service. Government servants are given pension, while public sector employees are given matching contribution to their contributory provident fund. Loans are also offered for purchase of vehicle, plot and construction of house. In addition, class IV employees are provided with liveries, conveyance allowance, washing allowance and loan for purchase of wheat. Employees not provided with accommodation are given house rent allowance. Public sector employees are also granted bonus.

The number of employees in Government service, public sector and local bodies increased tremendously since the formation of Haryana. In March, 1976, the district had 8,273 Government servants, 1,658 employees in public sector and 633 employees in local bodies. The total number of the employees in public services in March 1976 came to 10,564. By March 31, 1989, the number of employees in public services increased to 16,390 which indicated an increase of 55 per cent. Of these 226 were Central Government employees, 11,744 State Government employees, 1,129 Central Public Sector employees, 2,571 State Public Sector employees and 720 employed in local bodies. The number of female employees also increased considerably and in March, 1989, they formed 19 per cent of State Government employees.

DEFENCE SERVICES

The district contributed a large number of soldiers to the army during the First and Second World Wars. It continues to be a recruiting ground for the armed forces and this is evident from the number of ex-servicemen. In March, 1989, the number of ex-servicemen in the district was 13,625 and the number of war widows was 1,397. The district is proud of Lt. Col. Hoshiar Singh, who was awarded the nation's highest gallantry award, the Param Vir Chakra, in 1971 Indo-Pakistan War.

The soldiers and officers of the district covered themselves with glory during the Kashmir Operation of 1948, Chinese Aggression of 1962 and the Indo-Pakistan wars of 1965 and 1971. The roll of honour of soldiers decorated for bravery is given below :—

Serial No.	Recipient	Gallantry Award	Year when Granted
1.	Jam. Thambu Ram	Vir Chakra	1948
2.	Sep. Jaipal	Vir Chakra	1948
3.	Sep. Mange Ram	Vir Chakra	1948
4.	NK. Munshi Ram	Vir Chakra	1962
5.	Sp. Dharampal Singh	Vir Chakra	1962
6.	Maj. R.K. Bali	Vir Chakra	1965
7.	Sqn. Ldr. S.S. Malik	Vir Chakra	1965
8.	Maj. Satparkash Verma	Vir Chakra	1965
9.	Sqn. Ldr. R.S. Bedi	Vir Chakra	1965
10.	Maj. Sunehra Singh	Vir Chakra	1971
11.	Flt. Lt. P.S. Kalra	Vir Chakra	1971
12.	Flt. Lt. J.S. Gahlawat	Vir Chakra	1971
13.	Lt. Cdr. Inder Singh	Vir Chakra	1971

1	2	3	4
14.	Lt. Col. Hoshiar Singh	.. Param Vir Chakra	1971
15.	Maj. B.S. Malik	.. Sena Medal	1982
15.	Maj. Chhotu Ram	.. Do	1983
17.	Sqr. Ldr. S.C. Gaur	.. Suray Chakra	1984
18.	Maj. M.S. Dahiya	.. Surya Chakra	1985
19.	NK. Satbir Singh	.. Sena Medal	1986

In addition to *ex-gratia* grant and pension, several other concessions to the Armed Forces personnel and their families are granted by the State Government. The concessions include rewards in the form of cash and annuity to winners of gallantry awards.

The cash rewards and annuity given to the winners of the Param Vir Chakra, Mahavir Chakra and Vir Chakra are detailed below :—

Decoration	Reward
(i) Param Vir Chakra	.. (a) Cash Rs. 22,500 (b) Annuity: Rs. 1,000 for 30 years. The annuity is given for the life of the serviceman or for the life of his wife/ widow (if the decoration is earned posthumously or if the recipient dies before his wife) or for 30 years, whichever is shorter.
(ii) Maha Vir Chakra	.. (a) Cash : Rs. 15,000 (b) Annuity : Rs. 400 for 30 years. The annuity is given for the life of the serviceman or for the life of his wife/ widow (if the decoration is earned posthumously or if the recipient dies before his wife) or for 30 years, whichever is shorter.
(iii) Vir Chakra	.. (a) Cash : Rs. 7,000 (b) Annuity : Rs. 300 for 30 years. The annuity is given for the life of his wife/widow (if the decoration is earned posthumously or if the recipient dies before his wife) or for 30 years, whichever is shorter.

The winners of Ashoka Chakra, Kirti Chakra, Shaurya Chakra and Sena/Vayu Sena/Nav Sena Medal are given cash reward of Rs. 12,000, Rs. 5,000, Rs. 3,500 and Rs. 3,000, respectively without any annuity. It has also been decided to give a cash reward of Rs. 2,000 to the recipient of Mention-in-Despatches without any annuity.

The awardees of Param Vir Chakra and Maha Vir Chakra (Posthumous) of Chinese Aggression 1962, Indo-Pak Conflicts of 1965 and 1971 are given monetary grants of Rs. 22,500 whereas winners of Maha Vir Chakra Rs. 15,000 for the purchase of agricultural land or urban property.

These benefits are in addition to any *ex-gratia* grant/pension that may be admissible otherwise. In the case of more than one gallantry decorations, the awardee is entitled to full cash rewards for each decoration separately. In the case of posthumous decoration the rewards/annuities are given as under :

- (i) Fifty per cent is given to the widow/dependent children with immediate effect.
- (ii) Fifty per cent is given to the per parents provided they were dependent on the recipient of the decoration. Otherwise the the whole annuity is given to the widow/dependent children.
- (iii) Where widow/dependent children and dependent parents do not exist, the payment of cash rewards and annuity are made to the dependent brother(s) and sister(s) provided they were residing with the deceased during his life time and in the case of females, annuity is to be paid till her/ their marriages.
- (iv) Where the deceased is survived by his dependent parents only, then parents are given 100 per cent of such grant, etc.

The Post War Services Reconstruction Fund (raised during World War II) and Special Fund to Reconstruction and Rehabilitation of ex-servicemen (raised in 1964) were created by Government of India for the welfare of ex-serviceman. A brief history and scope of these funds is as under :—

Post War Service Reconstruction Fund.—This fund was raised during World War II for the benefit of ex-servicemen below the rank of Non-Commissioned Officers and their dependents. The money from this fund was to be used for collective benefit and those who had served in the rank of non-combatants in the Defence Services during World War II or thereafter. The fund is being mainly utilised for :

1. Grant of stipends to the sons/wards of beneficiary ex-servicemen ;
2. Medical relief to T.B. and Leprosy patients ;
3. Construction and maintenance of sainik rest houses ;

4. Purchase of sewing machines for widows/wives of beneficiaries and disabled ex-servicemen (in extremely deserving cases) ;
5. Maintenance charges of ex-servicemen trainees in the Queen Mary's Technical School for disabled Indian Soldiers, Kirkee, Pune.
6. Maintenance of information rooms attached with Zila Sainik Board; and
7. Grant of re-union of ex-servicemen.

Special Fund for Reconstruction and Rehabilitation of Ex-Servicemen.—

This fund was created in 1964. The nucleus of the fund consists of contributions from the Government of India from the Defence Budget and Defence Fund and matching grants made by the State Government. The objects of the fund are :—

1. to award stipends to ex-servicemen for technical, managerial, vocational or agricultural training at a recognised training institution;
2. to sanction grants or loans to co-operative societies or other associations of ex-servicemen for schemes and projects of resettlement that is to say horticulture, animal husbandry, industry, transport, and the like;
3. to sanction scholarships or grants to dependents of ex-servicemen for higher studies in India beyond high school or higher secondary stage in technical, vocational or agricultural education;
4. to sanction expenditure on special measures of a collective nature for the maintenance of old and destitute ex-servicemen or widows of ex-servicemen;
5. to grant loans to individual ex-servicemen for starting industries or business undertakings; and
6. to do all other things to promote measures for the benefits of ex-servicemen and their dependents.

The income from the above funds is mainly utilised for grant of stipends to ex-servicemen/dependents and grant of loan to ex-servicemen for their rehabilitation. Ever since the operation of the Special Fund in the State, an attempt has been made to make a clear-cut demarcation in regard to the benefits to be given to ex-servicemen/their dependents from Special Fund and Post War Service Reconstruction Fund in order to avoid over-lapping and duplication. Stipends to ex-servicemen/their dependents eligible under the

Special Fund Scheme are being given only from the Special Fund. Thus applications of dependents with academic qualifications of Matric/Higher Secondary for technical, vocational or agricultural education are considered under this Fund. Applications of under-Matric dependents studying in industrial training institute and all dependents for general education are considered under the Post War Services Reconstruction Fund. The Zila Sainik Board, Sonipat looks after the welfare of serving and released/retired defence personnel. The total number of beneficiaries under Post War Services Reconstruction Fund was 249 as on March 31, 1989.

Services in Private Sector

With the growth of communication and economy, employment opportunities have increased tremendously in the private sector. Industrialisation and urbanisation has opened new jobs for thousands of people. Private sector include organised private industry and commercial establishments, shops and hotels. The private sector absorbs a large number of employees. However, the employees in large industries are well-paid and given other perks. Others are provided adequate protection under various labour laws, while the trade unions have also been organised to protect the rights of industrial workers. Sonipat district has a few large and medium industries. However, the small scale industrial units absorb the bulk of workers.

During 1988-89, the private organised sector (industries) absorbed 17,890 employees. Of these 15,678 were under the Act.

The commercial establishments, shops and hotels/restaurants in towns employ assistants, salesmen, cooks and helpers. These workers are not well organised and their working conditions and wages are protected by the Government, under the Punjab Shops and Commercial Establishments Act, 1958.

In March, 1989 the district had 8,209 shops with 1,880 employees, while the number of commercial establishments was 66 with 388 employees. Hotels and restaurants have new job avenues for the people as their work makes them travel to far off places and stay in hotels and eat in restaurants. Tourism has also added to the growth of hotels and habit of eating at restaurants. In March, 1989, the district had 107 hotels/restaurants with 298 employees in the towns. The hotels offer facilities for stay and meals.

PERSONAL SERVICES

Personal services include barbers, washermen and tailors. In urban areas the old practice of family barber has come to an end. The towns have exclusive hair dressing saloons and beauty parlours, as women have also begun cutting their hair short. Barbers also sit in the open to cater to the need

of lower income people. The number of hair dressing saloons/beauty parlours according to 1981 Census was 2,018. In rural areas some barbers continue the old tradition of family barbers. However, many barbers have also set-up hair cutting shops in rural areas. Hair cutting charges vary from Rs. 5 to Rs. 7.

Washermen and *dhobis* are losing their business to dry cleaners as most people now prefer to wash clothes in the house and get them ironed by the *dhobis*. Warm clothes are got drycleaned. With the result that *dhobis* have set-up street corner stalls for ironing of clothes. The number of washermen, including dry cleaners, dyers and *dhobis* was 1,058 according to 1981 Census.

Tailoring shops are very common in the towns, as the population has increased considerably and their demand for new clothes has also increased. Fashions have continuously changed and people in town like to wear new fashionable clothes. Some large tailoring shops in towns employ ten or more tailors for stitching. They are either paid a monthly salary on job basis. Master tailors usually take measurements and do cutting. The practice of family tailors has almost vanished. In rural areas too tailors charge money for stitching clothes. Tailoring charges vary from shop to shop, depending on the skill of tailors. In rural areas the charges are slightly less than the urban areas. However, the stitching charges have increased considerably over the years. In 1966, a shirt was stitched for Rs. 2, while a woollen suit was stitched for Rs. 55. In 1983, the stitching charges for a shirt was Rs. 25 while a woollen suit was stitched for Rs. 250. In 1989, the stitching charges for a shirt and woollen suit were Rs. 25 and Rs. 500 respectively.

Educational personnel, medical personnel, legal personnel and engineering personnel have been covered in other chapters.

SELF—EMPLOYED PERSONS

Self employed persons include all those who work independently or sell their individual services. These include *Jalahas* (weavers), *mochis* (shoemakers), sweepers, potters, stone-dressers, pedlars, hawkers and jugglers. Besides, new occupations have come up with the changing times such as repairs and motor mechanics. The habit of tea drinking has helped to open tea stalls in urban areas and at bus stops in rural areas. These tea stalls are not registered and hence do not come under persons employed in hotels/restaurants. Persons employed in shops (registered) are not included under the head of self employed persons, i.e. motor workshops, sweatmeat shops, cigarette shops, grocery shops, vegetable/fruit shops, jewellery shops and bakeries. However, self employed persons include *halwai* shops, cigarette sellers, grocery and vegetable/fruit shops in rural areas. These are mostly located at the bus stop of the village. It also includes goldsmiths in rural areas.

The *julahas*, potters and sweepers are spread through out the district. They still make their living through agricultural activities in rural areas. Most of them offer their customary services during marriages and other ceremonies. The *mochis* who function as cobblers usually sit at street corners repairing shoes or roam in the streets in search of customers. A few cobblers also make shoes and have set-up small shops. The potters make earthen vessels for cooling water or for storing grain or milk/butter in rural areas. The sweepers still follow their traditional professions.

Pedlars and hawkers go about hawking their goods in the towns and villages. They sell articles of daily use, vegetables, fruits, eatables, peanuts, *chana*, general merchandise, crockery and toys. They are more common in town than in village. In towns *chaat* and *chole-bhatura* are popular and *chqat* hawkers are very common.

Jugglers as in other parts of the country, earn their living by showing feats of jugglery and other tricks. In towns the *banderwala* and *richhwala* are more common. The snake-charmer in his saffron clothes with two baskets of snakes is also common. Many people worship snakes and so readily give offerings. Besides, there are quacks, who are usually found sitting with their medicine bottles on the roadside. They charm the credulous people by their talk and succeed in extracting money. They also act as soothsayers and read the palms for a consideration. The superstitious people visit the fortune-tellers to know about their future. They are spread throughout the district, but are more common in towns.

Roadside, cycle repair shops are in large number throughout the district. They carry out repair work. The auto-mechanics for scooters, cars, tractors and jeeps are, however, confined to towns. There are many persons who are expert in the repair work of cars and tractors.

Many people are self employed in shops in rural areas. These shops do not come under the Shops Act, 1958 and these are described under self-employed persons. They sell grocery, vegetable, fruit, soap, oil, toilet articles, shoe polish, etc. They usually open the shop in their house. Some stalls are centred at the village bus stop. These include the tea stalls, cigarette sellers, *paan* shop, fruit/ vegetable shop and occasionally a *halwai* shop. Many persons sit in the street selling cigarettes, peanuts, etc.

Goldsmiths are spread throughout the district. The jewellery shops in towns are registered and come under the Shop Act, 1958. However, many goldsmiths in towns as well as in rural areas make various types of ornaments and are so classed under self employed persons. This business gets a boost during the season of marriages.

In towns many people are engaged in keeping cows and buffaloes for selling milk.

DOMESTIC SERVICES

The domestic services include cooks, servants/ maid servants and part time helpers for household jobs. Servants, mainly young boys from the hills are employed by the rich people in towns. Some are engaged as cooks while the others are employed for cleaning of utensils, washing clothes and other domestic work. However, servants are not easily available and the few who work at homes come from outside the state. The servants are paid Rs. 150 to Rs. 200 per month besides food, clothing and lodging. A few families in towns employ local part time helpers, usually maid servants, for cleaning of utensils and sweeping the houses and some persons also engage them for washing clothes. They are paid Rs. 50 to Rs. 75 per month. In towns the Panjabi refugees usually work as part time helpers. Students not living in hostels employ them for cleaning of utensils and cooking. Most women usually do their own washing as washing machines, which are common in town, have made their job easy. In rural areas women do their own domestic chores.

Today religion has become a full time occupation and is the main source of income. The professional Brahmins conduct worship and perform rites in accordance with religious scriptures and recognised practices in the temple. They also conduct some religious ceremony on demand particularly at the time of marriage, birth, etc.

The proximity of Sonipat with Delhi has made it a potential source of income. There are many who supply milk and other things of daily use. Many persons of Sonipat area are engaged in the supply of flowers to the florist shops in Delhi. By this profession they make a very good living.

The other categories of persons who make the sale of their balms and other medicines in the trains from Dehli to Sonipat.

CHAPTER IX

ECONOMIC TRENDS

LIVELIHOOD PATTERN

From time immemorial, the majority of the people were dependent on agriculture or subsidiary profession of animal husbandry for their livelihood. The land was fertile and was under canal irrigation. The artisans like carpenters, potters, blacksmiths, weavers, dyers and tailors existed almost in all villages. Trade and small industries were limited to towns, while small traders also went to the villages.

Taking all these elements of the rural population together, more than two-third of the population was dependent on agriculture and the economy of the district was centred in the rural areas where it revolved round the agriculturist. The economy of the villages was largely governed by the conditions in which barter system was in vogue. The village carpenters, blacksmiths, potters, weavers and other artisans received remuneration in the form of a share of the harvested grains. Money, as a medium of exchange was not very current ; being used only for the purchase of elementary consumer goods brought from the towns.

Jewellery was the only form of capital of the rural people in those days. The limited monetary requirements were easily met by selling surplus foodgrains in a nearby market. Village shopkeepers who supplied the necessities of life, were mainly paid in kind. Cattle for which the district was known all over the country, also stood the people in good stead in times of need, as they could be sold without difficulty in many cattle fairs. In the case of more well-to-do landowners also, the insecurity of the times strongly discouraged the possession of capital in a fluid form. For various reasons land deals were limited in number, and sales resulting from excessive fragmentation of families and indebtedness of farmers were sponsored by somewhat more affluent land owners for status rather than prospect of gain. Large scale mechanised industries were not in existence.

The livelihood pattern in the area did not undergo much change during the early years of the century. Though the First world War attracted a large number of recruits, agriculture remained the primary occupation of the district and involved more than two-third of the population. This proportion, becoming numerically greater with the increase in population, exerted more pressure on the land.

After Independence, things began to change gradually and industrial activity began to pick up. Some large industries came up at Sonipat and more job opportunities opened up in business, trade, education and construction activity. With the construction of roads and improvement in means of communication, the economy changed visibly.

The economy of the district is primarily agricultural. At the time of 1981 Census, 59.40 per cent of the total main workers were cultivators and agricultural labourers. There were 162 registered working factories in the district during the year 1989 and the estimated number of workers employed in them was 12,281. In the district, Sonipat town is throbbing with industrial activity. It has a sound industrial base with a wide product diversification. The large and medium scale units are engaged in manufacturing bicycles, cycle parts, mopeds, auto-components, handtools, electrical accessories, steel tubes, steel billets, chemicals, dehydrated vegetables, vanaspati ghee, soft drinks, beverages, sheet glass, sugar and beer, etc. Atlas Cycle Industries Limited set up in 1951 produces bicycles and is one of the leading exporters. Milton Cycle Industries Limited manufactures bicycle components, Gedore Tools (India) Limited, known the world over for quality products, produces hand tools. Bharat Steel Tubes Limited at Ganaur produces steel tubes and pipes. Sonipat Co-operative Sugar Mill is engaged in the production of sugar. Haryana Breweries Limited, Electric Construction and Equipment Company Limited, Hindustan Everest Tools Limited, Rubber Reclaim Company of India (Pvt.) Limited, Mace (Pvt.) Limited and Haryana Agro Food Processing Plant are some of the other large scale units at and near to Sonipat. There are many small scale units also in Sonipat district producing a large variety of products which include rubber, plastic and chemical products, paints, varnishes, drugs and pharmaceuticals, dyes, PVC shoes, weighing scales, machine tools, agricultural implements, hydraulic presses and other light engineering products, leather, food products, textiles, bullet proof helmets, etc. Gohana town is known for producing niwar. After opening of the above industrial Units, there is a great change in the livelihood pattern.

Of the total population of 8,38,645, there were 2,36,581 (2,05,970 males and 3,611 females) main workers as per Census of 1981. The non-working population stood at 2,34,978 males and 3,12,622 females. Except the main workers, there were 32,664 marginal workers comprising 7,692 males and 24,972 females in the district. The ratio of main workers to non-workers was 29:71. The tahsilwise details of main workers, marginal workers and non-workers are given in table below :—

Tahsil	Main Workers			Marginal Workers			Non-Workers		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Sonipat	1,10,846	8,809	1,19,655	2,362	6,401	8,763	1,28,343	1,81,758	3,10,101
Gohana	64,017	17,992	82,009	4,712	15,953	20,665	72,681	80,724	1,53,405
Ganaur	31,107	3,810	34,917	618	2,618	3,236	33,954	50,140	84,094
	2,05,970	30,611	2,36,581	7,692	24,972	32,664	2,34,978	3,12,622	5,47,600

On the basis of economic activities pursued, the main working population was classified into five categories as per 1981 Census. The detailed classification is given in the following table :

Category	No. of Workers			Percent- age to total no. of workers
	Male	Female	Total	
(1) Cultivators	83,424	16,991	1,00,415	42.41
(2) Agricultural Labourers	32,745	7,440	40,185	16.97
(3) Household Industry	7,453	577	8,030	3.39
(4) Other workers	82,548	5,603	88,151	37.23

The analysis of the table shows that 59.38 per cent of the total working population (cultivators 42.41 per cent and agricultural labourers 16.97 per cent) were engaged in agricultural pursuits, while 3.39 per cent were in household industry and 37.23 per cent in other services. It may be particularly noted that the district had a large number of army and civil personnel.

PRICES, WAGES AND STANDARD OF LIVING

The outbreak of war in 1914 caused a sudden rise in prices owing to imports being in short supply and the production being adversely affected by poor monsoon and bad harvests of 1915-16. In 1917 commenced a period of distress and hardship in which prices rose too rapidly to allow the economic system to adjust itself. The strain on the railways resulting from the war caused dislocation of communications and the goods from an area of plenty could not be transported to areas of scarcity. The disastrous harvest of 1918 was closely followed by an unparallel loss of life caused by the epidemic of influenza in the later part of 1918. These hardships brought matters to a climax and even good harvests in 1920 proved insufficient to stay the upward trend of prices.

Up to about 1907, the purchasing power of the wages had risen steadily. During the following decade, particularly during the First World War years, there was an increase in wages of skilled labour to the extent of 62 per cent as compared to 37 per cent rise in wheat prices. The wages of unskilled

labour increased (14 per cent). The non-working landlords who got high prices for their yields benefitted more than the industrialists who paid enhanced wages to their skilled labour. The unskilled labourers in non-agricultural avocations whose wages did not rise proportionately were hit hard ; those engaged in agricultural operations fared better owing to the custom of payment in kind.

After the twenties, the wages increased to Rs. 1½ per day for skilled labour in 1922 (20 per cent over 1909 level). This rise in wages was commensurate with the rise in prices, so the skilled labourers were not ill off. The position of unskilled labour was not as satisfactory as their wages rose to Re. ½ per day (129 per cent over 1909 level). After 1927-28 there was a general trade depression in which prices fell and wages gradually followed suit but this fall was not of the same magnitude as before so the labourers were comparatively better-off during this decade.

The general depression of the thirties brought a slump in the market accompanied by un-employment. The resulting downward trend in the prices of agricultural produce created misery for the farmer.

The World War II broke out in September, 1939. It created scarcity conditions in the district. The misery of the agricultural classes was aggravated because of the damage to the crops caused by natural calamities such as rust, gram blight and hailstorm. They got famine stricken. In 1941 with the entry of Japan in the war, the scene of hostilities shifted near India which in turn imparted a fillip to speculation in food grain prices. The Bengal Famine of 1943 and the general transport difficulties all over the country accelerated the upward movement of the price level. There was a slight recession of prices during the following two years due to tightening up of controls and rationing measures. However the general scarcity of food grains and the inflationary factors made the price level to rise enormously. The prices of consumer goods also rose. The trend of prices of food articles was almost similar to that of food grains but the price index of cloth articles registered a greater rise than that of food articles. During the war years there was a fall in domestic expenditure but it was not due to any pressure of high prices but because of general scarcity conditions of consumer goods.

After the Partition, the economy of the area was put out of gear ; prices rose manifold due to abolition of control and rationing in 1948. Price control had to be reintroduced in 1949. The imposition, removal and reimposition of control over the prices of food grains and consumer goods during the short period of 5 years between 1944 and 1949 reflected uncertain conditions.

In 1950-51, prices rose and the wage increase tended to equalise although the wage increase in the case of unskilled labour was much higher

(10 times as compared to 3 times increase in the case of skilled labour and the wheat prices). Table XIV of Appendix throws valuable light on the relative increase in wages and prices since the beginning of the twentieth century.

As a result of the First Five Year Plan, agricultural production increased considerably and prices of foodgrains fell in 1953-54. The price control was lifted on foodgrains, but the upward trend in prices started immediately thereafter. Harvest failure and various inflationary factors gave rise to prices during the Second Five-Year Plan. During the Third Five-Year Plan, the prices of wheat, barley, rice, bajra, maize, gur, tobacco etc. increased almost hundred per cent. Again during the Fourth Five-Year Plan, the whole sale prices registered an unprecedented upward trend. In Sonipat district, the price of wheat was Rs. 43, Rs. 120 and Rs. 200 per quintal in 1953, 1956 and 1974, respectively. Similar upward trend in the price of grain has also been observed during the last 15 years.

The average wholesale prices in certain selected mandis of the district are discussed below to bring out clearly the fluctuation in prices of some commodities :

Sonipat.—The market at Sonipat, being situated on a railway line and near to Delhi, is a big marketing centre. The following table shows the average wholesale prices of various agricultural commodities in this mandi during 1978-79 to 1982-83 and 1988-89 :

(Rs. per quintal)

Name of Commodity	1978-79	1979-80	1980-81	1981-82	1982-83	1988-89
Wheat	125.25	133.41	142.83	155.91	181.00	241.00
Gram	198.58	207.58	350.08	315.92	259.16	684.00
Barley	79.80	105.11	126.80	107.27	124.00	205.00
Bajra	75.82	101.89	123.00	137.00	134.44	152.00
Gur	93.33	215.41	348.41	230.25	199.75	358.00
Cotton <i>Desi</i>	266.00	279.33	301.40	431.16	360.40	673.00
Sarson	322.58	369.58	450.41	411.58	403.41	588.00

The retail prices of foodgrains prevailing at Sonipat from 1978-79 to 1982-83 and 1988-89 are shown in the following table :—

(Rs. per Kilogram)

Commodity	1978-79	1979-80	1980-81	1981-82	1982-83	1988-89
Wheat	1.40	1.42	1.59	1.62	1.82	2.47
Gram	2.15	4.50	3.80	3.10	3.05	7.29
Barley	1.02	1.02	1.18	1.30	1.35	2.58
Bajra	1.05	1.21	1.46	1.49	1.58	1.61
Rice (Begmi)	2.00	2.00	2.50	2.50	2.50	4.00
Gur	2.06	1.92	3.86	3.21	2.55	4.04
Milk	2.56	2.71	2.84	3.45	3.60	6.00
Ghee (Veg.)	9.75	12.50	13.50	14.50	15.25	24.00
Mustard Oil	9.81	10.38	13.49	13.58	13.50	22.17
Kerosene (per litre)	1.38	1.60	1.64	1.81	1.54	2.52

It is observed that the average retail prices like wholesale prices did not rise much except for Gram, from Rs. 2.15 per kilogram in 1978-79 to Rs. 4.50 per kilogram in 1979-80, Gur from Rs. 1.92 per kilogram in 1979-80 to Rs. 3.86 per kilogram in 1980-81, mustard Oil from Rs. 10.38 per kilogram in 1979-80 to Rs. 13.49 per kilogram in 1980-81 and vegetable ghee from Rs. 9.75 per kilogram in 1978-79 to Rs. 12.50 per kilogram in 1979-80. There have been much fluctuations in the prices of ghee and mustard oil upto 1988-89 in all the mandis of the district.

The relative prices of commodities in other important mandis of the district are shown below :—

Gohana Mandi

(Rs. per quintal)

Commodities	1978-79	1979-80	1980-81	1981-82	1982-83	1988-89
Wheat	121.33	125.25	135.08	153.41	170.83	225.00
Gram	193.50	212.00	347.08	367.76	247.18	581.00
Barley	79.90	102.00	112.20	107.76	118.80	172.00
Bajra	82.40	107.09	117.55	129.00	131.22	143.00
Gur	85.42	221.25	335.25	225.65	193.16	351.00
Cotton Desi	278.14	271.00	312.33	451.66	355.22	583.00
Sarson	295.76	367.25	449.50	420.08	397.33	596.00

Ganaur Mandi

(Rs. per quintal)

Commodity	1978-79	1979-80	1980-81	1981-82	1982-83	1988-89
Wheat	123.25	124.25	137.50	153.25	175.91	224.00
Gram	196.00	214.10	342.55	309.18	248.33	561.00
Barley	100.16	115.20	118.85	108.00	117.00	161.00
Bajra	72.55	100.62	114.83	130.87	129.42	145.00
Gur	93.50	211.66	322.27	210.58	199.75	346.00
Cotton Desi	275.00	260.66	290.28	418.85	412.40	605.00
Sarson	303.42	367.33	461.00	412.00	407.41	612.00

In three *mandis* of the district, viz. Sonipat, Gohana and Ganaur, there was a steep rise in average wholesale prices of various agricultural commodities in 1979-80 and 1988-89.

Sonipat is the only industrial town in the district where consumer price index of working class was prepared. Consumer price index of working class for food and general articles from 1983-84 to 1988-89 is shown below for Sonipat town :—

(Base 1972-73=100)

Year	Food	General
1983-84	227	229
1984-85	239	242
1985-86	251	259
1986-87	227	281
1987-88	301	301
1988-89	337	332

The above table indicates that the price level of food articles and general articles during 1983-84 to 1988-89 was more or less the same and continued to increase steadily.

Wages.—In olden times when means of communications were not properly developed and movement either of commodities or wage earners was restricted. Production of foodgrains and other commodities used to have substantial effect on the rates of wages in a particular region. With the development of roads and means of communications, the conditions changed after Independence throughout the country as a whole.

Wages paid to workers are classified into three broad categories, i.e. monthly wages, wages paid to the casual workers and daily wages. Wages may vary from person to person and for different type of work for the same person. It is difficult to give precisely the wages prevailing in past in the district. In 1978-79, the wage rate for a whole time worker ranged from Rs. 165 per month to Rs. 250 per month, for a part time worker from Rs. 95 to Rs. 150 per month and for a daily worker from Rs. 10 per day to Rs. 15 per day, depending upon type of work. Rates for some of the major agricultural operations are given below :—

(For men only)

Year	Ploughing	Sowing	Weeding	Harvesting	Other Agricultural operations
	(Rs.)	(Rs.)	(Rs.) []	(Rs.)	(Rs.)
1984-85	19.50	19.50	19.50	50% of total wheat according to work	16.33
1985-86	19.50	19.50	19.50		17.50
1986-87	23.37	23.37	23.37		18.83
1987-88	26.00	26.00	26.00		23.66
1988-89	29.33	29.33	29.33		24.00

The wages for the skilled workers such as blacksmiths, carpenters, cobblers and other agricultural labourers are detailed below —

Year/Month	Blacksmith	Carpenter	Agriculture labourer	Other Agricultural Operations
	(Rs.)	(Rs.)	(Rs.)	(Rs.)
April, 1988	According to work	According to work	26.00	24.00
May, 1988	Do	Do	26.00	24.00
June, 1988	Do	Do	26.00	24.00
July, 1988	Do	Do	26.00	24.00
August, 1988	Do	Do	31.00	24.00
Sept., 1988	Do	Do	31.00	24.00
Oct., 1988	Do	Do	31.00	24.00
Nov., 1988	Do	Do	31.00	24.00
Dec., 1988	Do	Do	31.00	24.00
Jan., 1989	Do	Do	31.00	24.00
Feb., 1989	Do	Do	31.00	24.00
March, 1989	Do	Do	31.00	24.00

As already discussed, the method of payment in rural areas varies from occupation to occupation and sometimes from village to village. Occupations such as carpentry, blacksmithy are paid for at piece rates. These are subsidiary agricultural professions and are ultimately linked with agriculture. Though industrial units of the district have attracted many workers yet due to conservative nature of village-folk, many workers stick to the traditional professions. Till today competitive factors have not entered in these professions and the wages in kind are not strictly according to services rendered by the agricultural labourers but are largely governed by convention. The carpenter who is responsible for mending wood work of all agricultural implements and also domestic articles like *Charkha* and bed-steads is paid in kind at the time of harvest. The

blacksmith who is also responsible for repairs of all iron agricultural implements, is also paid in the same form. Traditional duties of supplying shoes, clothes and earthenwares are now no more attended by to *chamars dhannks* and *kumhars*. They have shifted to casual labour and also resort to seasonal employment in various agricultural operations. Other classes with insufficient land also do casual labour in agricultural operations. Since this is not a permanent employment and is of seasonal nature; more than one occupation is followed by the same person or class of persons. Thus weeding, reaping, ploughing and watering the fields are done by the same labourer. The method and period of payment and normal working hours are not fixed. In addition to the cash payments, daily meals in the form of whey, *Chappatis* and tea are also provided to the casual labourers doing weeding, reaping and ploughing. The normal working hours are from sun-rise to sun-set with a break of an hour in the noon. Tea is also supplied in the evening. The big farmers (*Zamindars*) employ regular labourers who work with them throughout the year. Such labourers are paid in kind and they get a fixed share of the total produce at the time of harvest. Labourers like *pakvava*, *jhoka* and *muthia* and labourers for harvesting of wheat are paid in kind and get a share of the produce. A fixed part of the crop of wheat harvested is given to the labourer as his wages and this system is known as *lai*.

Some barbers who render traditional services and also do shaving are paid in kind as arrived at through mutual agreement. Since *ad hoc* payment in cash and kinds is also made at occasions like marriages and births according to the services rendered by the barbers.

Standard of living.—On account of many big industrial units in the district some change in the livelihood pattern is reflected. Both prices and wages on the whole have been rising during the recent years. As usual, the rate at which prices have gone up has over run the rate at which wages have increased. In other words, the relative position of prices and wages has not remained constant and there has been a greater rise in prices than in wages. The effect of these fluctuations is obvious. The value of money has been constantly on the decline, adversely affecting the cost of living of the people and in turn their standard of living.

The general standard of living of the middle class of the society is very much higher. Even the common man is maintaining a standard of dress and house, because he finds many opportunities to get employment in Delhi which is very near to the district.

Employment Exchange.—A sub-office of the employment exchange was opened at Sonipat in 1948. Later it was upgraded as District Employment Exchange in 1967. Employment exchange was opened at Gohana in 1974 and rural employment exchanges were opened at Ganaur and Kharkhoda in 1980 and 1982, respectively. The employment exchanges help many people in obtaining a job and at the same time provide the data about unemployed. The following table shows the working of employment exchanges in the district from 1987 to 1989 :—

Year	No. of Vacancies notified	No. of Applicants given job	No. of Applicants on Live Register
1987	1,217	579	25,854
1988	795	185	27,062
1989	335	472	25,980

The table shows that the number of unemployed has been rising. The following table shows the unemployment situation according to educational qualifications from 1981 to 1983 :—

Educational Qualifications	Number of unemployed		
	1987	1988	1989
Post-Graduates ..	148	205	223
Graduates (Arts) ..	895	705	1,202
Graduates (Science) ..	52	46	44
Graduates (Commerce) ..	125	129	124
Matriculates ..	12,787	13,921	12,645
Middle Class Pass ..	3,964	4,089	3,861
Literate and Others ..	25,795	5,871	5,697
Total : ..	23,766	24,966	23,796

The rural Employment Exchange was opened at Rai in 1984.

The occupational classification of unemployed persons registered in the employment exchanges from 1987 to 1989 is as follows:—

Occupational Classification	Number of unemployed		
	1987	1988	1989
(i) Professional, technical and related workers	2,633	2,750	2,784
(ii) Administrative Executive & Managerial Workers	1	1	..
(iii) Sales Workers	3	2	2
(iv) Service Workers	1,461	1,591	1,505
(v) Clerical and related Workers	3,273	2,732	2,826
(vi) Farmers, Fishermen hunters, loggers and related workers	128	99	99
(vii) Production and related workers excluding labourers	2,608	2,590	2,529
(viii) Labourers	88	71	67
(ix) Persons without professional or Vocational training or previous work experience	15,659	17,226	16,168
Total :	25,854	27,062	25,980

Employment returns are obtained from establishments in public sector and private sector (employing more than ten persons) as part of collection of employment market information. This provides the information on employment situation in the establishment as well as the vacancies left unfilled. These returns are filed every 3 months. In March, 1989, there were 16,390 public sector employees (male 13,758 and female 2,632) and 17,890 private sector employees (male 16,970 female 920) using the employment exchanges

There is one Vocational Guidance Unit at Sonipat, which was started in 1970. Books and pamphlets on various career opportunities are provided. Group

or individual counselling work is carried on by the Vocational Guidance Counsellor to guide the students and the unemployed to choose a suitable vocation.

Community Development.—The community development programme was started in the district in 1955, with a view enlisting popular participation in implementing development programmes in the blocks. It is an integral approach to rural development, based on public participation and working through representative institutions of the people. The district is divided in to blocks to carry on the development work in agriculture, health, sanitation, housing, education, arts and crafts and sports. The number of blocks along with other details as on March 31, 1989 is given in the following table:—

Block	Year of opening of block	No. of villages	No. of Panchayats
Sonipat	1956	89	63
Kharkhoda	1957	45	43
Ganaur	1957	67	67
Rai	1953	63	53
Gohana	1955	35	35
Mundlana	1962	34	35
Kathura	1962	20	21

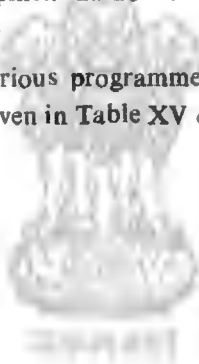
Activities under the community development programme include, helping the farmer reclaim land and providing good quality seeds, implements and fertilizers at subsidized rates. The farmers are encouraged to use dung as fertilizer and set up model farms. They are supplied good breed bulls and artificial insemination centres have been set up to increase milk yield. The farmers are given financial assistance for construction of wells and tubewells.

Health and sanitation activities cover opening of new hospitals, rural health centres, rural dispensaries, child welfare and maternity centres, construction of drains, dry latrines and smokeless *chulahs*, pavement of streets, installation of hand pumps and construction of wells for drinking water.

Educational activities cover opening of new schools, upgrading of old schools, and construction and repairing of school buildings. In adult literacy centres, men and women are encouraged to learn the three R's. Libraries and reading rooms are started and young villagers are encouraged to organise into youth clubs. *Mahila samitis* are organised for the welfare of women folk. Children's parks and *bal-vadis* (nurseries) are started for the benefit of the children. *Panchayat ghars*, *Harijan Chaupals* and Community centres are constructed and radiosets are also supplied for the benefit of the community. People are encouraged to construct roads. Besides, the villagers are also encouraged to organise themselves into cooperative credit societies, industrial societies, farming societies and service societies of various kinds.

Village and small scale industries are encouraged by setting up demonstration-cum-training centres where villagers are trained in various arts and crafts. The block development authorities set up model villages to serve as example for other villages.

Achievements under various programmes of Community Development from 1987-88 to 1989-89 are given in Table XV of Appendix.



CHAPTER X

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION

The district consists of three tahsils, namely ; Sonipat, Gohana¹ and Ganaur with its sub-tahsil Kharkhoda. As on March 31, 1989, there were 3 towns and 353 villages (340 inhabited and 13 un-inhabited). The number of villages in each tahsil is given below :—

Tahsil	Villages		Total
	Inhabited	Un-inhabited	
Sonipat	147	5	152
Gohana	86	3	89
Ganaur	63	4	67
Kharkhoda (Sub-tahsil)	44	1	45
Total :	340	13	353

On the principle of decentralisation of authority in the administrative set up, the district has been divided into two divisions ; viz. Sonipat and Gohana. The Sonipat sub-division came into being in 1912. The Gohana sub-division, which is co-terminous with the tahsil area, was created in 1964.

By the end of March, 1989, the strength of revenue officers was as follows :—

Tahsil	Officers	Strength
Sonipat	.. Sub-Divisional Officer (Civil)	1
	Tahsildar	1
	Naib Tahsildars	2
Ganaur	.. Tahsildar	1
	Naib Tahsildars	2
Gohana	.. Sub-Divisional Officer (Civil)	1
	Tahsildar	1
	Naib-Tahsildars	2
Khakhoda (Sub-tahsil)	.. Naib-Tahsildar	1

¹ Gohana sub-division of Sonipat district was included in the Rohtak district—*vide* Haryana Govt. Notification No. S.O. 156/P.A. 17/1887/S. 5/89, dated October 16, 1989.

District Authorities

Deputy Commissioner.—The general administration of the district is headed by the Deputy Commissioner. For administrative purposes, he is under the Commissioner, Ambala Division, Ambala Cantonment. In other words, the State Government's general authority descend through the divisional Commissioner to the Deputy Commissioner. With the advent of democratic set-up and increased tempo of development activities, the duties and responsibilities of the Deputy Commissioner have increased enormously. He still performs the triple functions of British time ; being at once the Deputy Commissioner, the District Magistrate and the Collector, but his responsibilities, particularly as Deputy Commissioner, the executive on the spot, have increased manifold.

As Deputy Commissioner, he is the executive head of the district with multifarious responsibilities. There is hardly any aspect of district administration with which he is not concerned one way or the other. He has a special role to play in regard to Panchayati Raj. In addition to keeping an eye on the functioning of Panchayati Raj Institutions, he guides the Panchayats, Panchayat Samitis, Municipal Committees, Market Committees and Improvement Trusts and helps them to overcome their respective difficulties and problems. As District Magistrate, he is entrusted with the maintenance of law and order in the district. In the discharge of this responsibility, he is assisted by the Superintendent of Police. After the separation of the judiciary from the executive in 1964, he is the only principal executive magistrate for the enforcement of security measures and exercises judicial powers under certain sections of preventive chapters of the Code of Criminal Procedure. He is assisted by 4 Executive Magistrates.

As Collector, he is the highest revenue judicial authority in the district and is responsible for collection of tax and all dues recoverable as arrears of any tax. If a party does not pay a tax in time, the tax-collecting authority sends a certificate of tax arrears to the Deputy Commissioner, who has powers to recover the dues in the same way as he does in respect of land revenue.

He supervises the maintenance of land records and agricultural statistics besides the management of Government lands and estates. He is also entrusted with the implementation of land reforms and distribution of *taccavi* and other loans to agriculturists. The supervision of acquisition and requisition of land, and administering relief measures at the time of drought, flood and other natural calamities, are some of his other duties. He acts as the District Elections Officer and the Registrar for registration work. While co-ordinating the activities of various departments in the district, whenever and wherever necessary,

he takes care not to interfere in their internal administration and the procedures-methods and policies of the departments. He holds periodic meetings of all the district level officers with a view to reviewing the progress of work done by several departments and co-ordinating and intensifying their efforts. He has to possess a clear picture of the objectives of all the departments so as to evolve an integrated approach to various developmental activities in the district. The Deputy Commissioner has been authorised to inspect the officers of all the departments in the district. He may call for any report and other information regarding the working of these offices. In short, he is the head of the district administration, a co-ordinating officer for the various departments and a connecting link between the public and the Government as he executes the policies, administers the rules and regulations framed by the Government from time to time and also looks after the welfare, needs and requirements of the people. In fact he has become an essential instrument in the building of a welfare state.

Additional Deputy Commissioner.—The post of Additional Deputy Commissioner was created in the district in 1981. He co-ordinates the activities of various revenue branches. Besides, he deals with schemes concerning the welfare and economic uplift of the weaker sections of the society. Thus, he relieves the Deputy Commissioner in the work relating to the rural Development.

Sub-Divisional Officer.—The Sub-Divisional Officer is the chief civil officer of a sub-division. His main duties, like those of the Deputy Commissioner, relate to revenue, executive and judicial work. In revenue matters, the powers of Collector have been delegated to him. He exercises direct control over Tahsildars and their staff. His main duties like those of the Deputy Commissioner relate to revenue, executive and judicial work. His executive duties pertain to the maintenance of law and order, motor taxation, passports, renewal and grant of arms licenses, sub-divisional establishment, local bodies and co-ordination of the developmental activities of various departments of the sub-division. As Sub-Divisional Magistrate, he exercises judicial powers under certain sections of the preventive chapters of the code of criminal procedure. An appeal from the orders of the Sub-Divisional Magistrate in such cases lies to the District and Sessions Judge.

Tahsildar and Naib Tahsildar.—The Tahsildar and Naib Tahsildar are the key officers in the revenue administration and exercise the powers of the Assistant Collector II Grade and Sub-Registrars and Joint Sub-Registrars for registration work. While deciding partition cases, the Tahsildar assumes powers of Assistant Collector I Grade.

Their main task being dues collection and supervision, the Tahsildar and the Naib-Tahsildar have to tour extensively. They are principally

responsible for the maintenance of revenue records and crop statistics. In the discharge of their miscellaneous duties, they assist the development staff in their various activities in the execution of plans, construction of roads, drains embankments, soil conservation and reclamation, pavement of streets, filling of depressions and disposing of work connected with rural reconstruction. They also help the Block Development and Panchayat Officer in enlisting the maximum cooperation of the people in rural areas in making the Panchayati Raj a success. They are assisted by Kanungos and Patwaris.

Since the actual preparation of village records and revenue statistics rests with the Patwaris, the district is at present divided into 161 *patwar* circles, each circle being looked after by a Patwari who works under the immediate supervision of the Kanungo concerned.

The Lambardar (a non-official) is quite an important functionary in the administration. He collects and deposits the tax. The deposits were previously made in the Government treasury under the charge of the tahsil officers. These are now made in the branches of the State Bank of India. In addition to his duties of collection of tax, he keeps his vigil eye on law and order in his area and any breach (or adverse circumstances) thereof is reported by him to the nearest police station and to the Deputy Commissioner's agency. He is assisted in his work by the Village Chowkidar.

GENERAL ARRANGEMENT FOR DISPOSAL OF BUSINESS.

In addition to Sub-Division, Tahsil and Block Staff, the Deputy Commissioner is assisted by the General Assistant and the Additional General Assistant. Assistant Commissioners/Extra Assistant Commissioners are also some times temporarily appointed in the district with varying degrees of powers. These officers relieve the Deputy Commissioner of the routine activities of his office, so that he may give due attention to managerial duties of co-ordination, direction, superintendence and control in other spheres. The General Assistant is responsible for functions and work relating to establishment, revenue, defence, etc., whereas the Additional General Assistant looks after the work relating to panchayat samitis and local development activities.

Various district committees are constituted in the district. These committees help to redress the grievances of the people, review the progress of agricultural development, suggest the ways and means to improve health and sanitation conditions, propose suitable steps for the welfare of ex-servicemen and their dependents, work out integrated development of towns and keep a watch on the progress of dues collection and disposal of surplus land.

Development Organisation

To administer schemes of development, the district has been divided into 7 blocks (Rai, Kharkhoda, Sonipat, Ganaur, Gohana, Kathura and Mundlana). Each block was previously under the charge of ■ Block Development Officer but with the merger of the Panchayat Department with the Development Department in 1959, the Block Development Officer re-designated as the Block Development and Panchayat Officer under the Punjab Gram Panchayat Act, 1952. With the introduction of Panchayati Raj in 1961, the development of the block is looked after by an elected body known as the Panchayat Samiti. The Block Development and Panchayat Officer functions under the administrative control of the Panchayat Samiti and also functions as its *ex-officio* Executive Officer.

Each Block has been provided with Extension Officers from the Development, Industries, Agriculture, Co-operative and Panchayat Departments who function under the control of the Block Development and Panchayat Officer. This procedure helps in the coordination of several development activities in the block.

For the implementation of programme relating to the uplift of rural women in the block, the Block Development and Panchayat Officer is assisted by Gram Sewikas and Mukhya Sewikas who are under the administrative control of Lady Circle Supervisor. The various programmes undertaken by them include kitchen gardens, arts and crafts centres, *balwadis*, home decoration, poultry farming, etc.

Panchayats have been constituted at the village level to look after the development works.

POLICE

The police administration in the district is under the Superintendent of Police, who is next to the Deputy Commissioner. He is responsible for maintenance of law and order.

JUDICIARY

Up to March 31, 1983, Sonipat district was a part of Sessions Division, Rohtak. The Sonipat Sessions Divisions was created in June, 1983.

The following Courts were functioning in the district as on March 31, 1989 :—

1. Court of District and Sessions Judge, Sonipat ;
2. Court of 1st Additional District and Sessions Judge, Sonipat ;

3. Court of IInd Additional District and Sessions Judge, Sonipat
4. Court of IIIrd Additional District and Sessions Judge, Sonipat
5. Court of Senior Sub-Judge, Sonipat
6. Court of Chief Judicial Magistrate, Sonipat
7. Court of Additional Senior Sub-Judge, Sonipat
8. Court of Sub-Judge-cum-Judicial Magistrate 1st Class, Sonipat
9. Court of Judicial Magistrate 1st Class-cum-Sub-Judge, Sonipat
10. Court of Sub-Divisional Judicial Magistrate-cum-Sub-Judge 1st Class, Gohana

District Attorney

Before the appointment of District Attorney in 1961, the civil and criminal business on behalf of the Government was done by public prosecutor/ Government Advocate respectively. Now the District Attorney, Sonipat conducts these cases. In 1989, he was assisted by three District Attorneys and eight Assistant District Attorneys ; seven posted at Sonipat and one at Gohana. They are not allowed to engage in private practice.

Oath Commissioner

There were 10 Oath Commissioners on March 31, 1989, out of which 9 were functioning at Sonipat and one at Gohana. They charge Rs. 2 as attestation fee for each affidavit attested.

Notary Public

In 1989, the number of Notary Public was 3. The main functions of the Notary Public are preparation and attestation of affidavits, administration of oath, etc. The fee for attestation of an affidavit is Rs. 2.50 and for certifying or authenticating a document as original Rs. 5.

OTHER STATE AND CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICERS

There are other officers who are administratively under the control of their respective heads of departments but the Deputy Commissioner has been given powers to co-ordinate their activities and exercises a general control over them. Such officers are listed below :—

State Government Officers

1. Superintending Engineer, Public Health, Sonipat

2. Executive Engineer, Public Health Construction Division, Sonipat
3. Executive Engineer, P.W.D. (B. & R.), Provincial Division No. I, Sonipat
4. Executive Engineer, P.W.D. (B. & R.), Provincial Division No. 2, Sonipat
5. Executive Engineer, Construction Division No. II, Sonipat
6. Executive Engineer, National Highway, Sonipat
7. Executive Engineer, Drainage, Sonipat
8. Additional Chief Engineer (H.S.E.B.), Sonipat
9. Executive Engineer, S/U H.S.E.B., Fazilpur
10. Executive Engineer, City Operation, H.S.E.B., Sonipat
11. Executive Engineer, H.S.E.B., Gohana
12. Chief Medical Officer, Sonipat
13. District Malaria Officer, Sonipat
14. District Family Welfare Officer, Sonipat
15. General Manager, District Industry Centre, Sonipat
16. District Education Officer, Sonipat
17. District Food and Supplies Controller, Sonipat
18. Epidemiologist, Animal Husbandry, Sonipat
19. District Statistical Officer, Sonipat
20. District Sports and Youth Welfare Officer, Sonipat
21. Treasury Officer, Sonipat
22. District Welfare Officer, Sonipat
23. District Public Relations Officer, Sonipat
24. District Employment Officer, Sonipat
25. Deputy Excise and Taxation Commissioner, Sonipat
26. Deputy Labour Commissioner, Sonipat
27. Superintendent District Jails, Sonipat
28. Assistant Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Sonipat

29. Assistant Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Gohana
30. Deputy Director, Agriculture, Sonipat
31. Divisional Forest Officer, Sonipat
32. District Probation Officer, Sonipat
33. Commandant, Home Guards, Sonipat
34. Assistant Cane Development Officer, Sonipat
35. District Adult Education Officer, Sonipat
36. Manager, Printing and Stationery, Sonipat
37. Horticulture Development Officer, Sonipat
38. Assistant Plant Protection Officer, Sonipat
39. Superintendent, School for the Blind, Sonipat
40. Assistant Soil Conservation Officer, Sonipat
41. Assistant Soil Conservation Officer, Gohana
42. District Quality and Control Officer, Sonipat
43. Fisheries Development Officer, Sonipat
44. District Town and Country Planner, Sonipat
45. Wildlife Inspector, Sonipat.
46. General Manager, Haryana Roadways, Sonipat
47. Assistant Agriculture Engineer, Sonipat
48. Child Development and Project Officer, Ganaur
49. Child Development and Project Officer, Kathura
50. Secretary, Zila Sainik Board, Sonipat
51. District T.B. Officer, Sonipat
52. Inspector, Weights and Measures, Sonipat

Central Government Officers (Excluding Military Officers)

1. Superintendent, Post Offices, Sonipat
2. Sub-Divisional Officer (Telephones), Sonipat
3. Sub-Divisional Officer (Telegraphs), Sonipat
4. Income Tax Officer, Sonipat
5. Superintendent, Central Excise, Sonipat

CHAPTER XI

REVENUE ADMINISTRATION

HISTORY OF LAND REVENUE ASSESSMENT

The present Sonipat district was a part of two districts before 1912. The Sonipat area was a part of Delhi district upto 1912. It was included in the Rohtak district in September, 1912. Gohana tahsil remained a part of Rohtak district till the formation of Sonipat as separate district in 1972.

The system of revenue administration in the district was the same as applied to the rest of northern India during the last 300 years. During the reign of Akbar, northern India was divided into administrative circles by Raja Todar Mal for revenue purposes. The main features of assessment in these circles were : measurement of all arable and productive land in terms of standard *bigha*; an estimate of gross produce per *bigha*, based on the elaborate classification of soils according to their productiveness and other advantages; and the conversion of State share of the gross produce to money rates calculated on the basis of ten years' prices. The system continued with minor changes under the Mughals and the British.

Settlements of Sonipat tahsil

According to the *District Gazetteer of Delhi*, 1912, the early revenue administration of the Sonipat tahsil was crude, not to say arbitrary. For collection of revenue, strong pressure was brought to bear on the subordinates beginning with the tahsildar, who was personally held responsible for the arrears. The pressure was passed on to the *Zamindars* in the shape of quartering *sawars* on the villages till the revenue was paid. In the circumstances, complaints were made about cultivators *en masse* deserting the villages during or at the end of the short lease. In order to give relief, the assessment was reduced from Re. 1 to 12 *annas* per *kacha bigha* of *Khadar* lands and 12 *annas* in *Bangar* lands. Even the incidence of these indulgent rates worked out to about Rs. 4-12-0 and Rs. 3-10-0 per acre.

Summary Settlements

The early revenue arrangements seemed to have been made as far as possible on the basis of the ten existing arrangements without considering whether these arrangements were just or not or whether the changed circumstances demanded any modification in the rates of assessments. In the early days, the settlement was more or less continuous and was intended apparently to last for a few years or until it broke down. For example, in Sonipat tahsil, the settlements were made; (a) on the existing demand before 1817 (b) by first summary settlement from 1817-18 to 1824-25, (c) by a series of

agreements from 1825-26 to 1829-30, and (d) by second summary settlement from 1830-31 to 1840-41. Despite these settlements, there were several cases of the break down of the settlements and the years were noted as *tahsil-Kham*. The villages were, therefore, farmed out for collection of land revenue.

These settlements were bound to be empirical, because there were no regular records and the initial assessments were made on the basis of the sums recovered from farmers. Further, the assessments were pitched too high for collection and there was no machinery for ensuring elasticity in collection.

During the above settlements, Sonipat tahsil shared the misfortunes of Panipat. The summary assessments were equally harsh, the measures taken for realization were equally oppressive and unsuccessful. In fact, in 1839, the tahsil was so badly in debt to the treasury that the Government adopted the common remedy of repudiating its own exactions by striking off the large balances which were practically irrecoverable. The notes were made on each village with recommendations for new assessment. The following extract contains an interesting reference about settlements made in those days¹ :—

“Sonipat Bangr is the finest, most populous, and best cultivated *Parganah* in the district. It contains 97 *khalsa* villages, of which 77 are irrigated from the canal, and the greater part of the remaining 20 have more or less irrigation from wells. Water varies, on an average, in depth from 35 to 70 feet, but most of the villages without the canal are at the junction of the *Parganah* with the *khadar* or low lands, and water, therefore, is seldom more than 35 feet deep. They could all have the canal, but the outlay of capital is more than small villages at a distance can afford, and to those adjoining the *khadar* it is not worth the expense. Canal irrigation is carried to very considerable extent, probably exceeding half the whole cultivated area. Independent of the actual amount of irrigation, every village benefits more or less in proportion to its distance from the canal, the constant percolation from it affecting the soil, and increasing its productive powers most surprisingly. Wells to a considerable distance which were formerly dry are now amply supplied with water. The population of the *Parganah* bears a very good proportion to the area, and at the same time is very equally spread over its surface. These circumstances, and its extensive irrigation, have rendered it a perfect garden. You may ride for miles, and see nothing but the most splendid cultivation. The survey returns of 1825 give an area of 1,05,381

1. *Gazetteer of the Delhi District*, 1883-84, p. 161.

acres of culturable land, of which 69,692 acres was then cultivated. Irrigation from the canal has since probably doubled, and of course, the cultivation has greatly increased. The revenue of Sonipat *Bangar* of 1243 Fasli, was Rs. 2,57,549-9, which gives the acreage rate of Rs. 2-0-7½ and Rs. 2-15-2 on the then cultivated land. With reference to its *malguzari* area, it is the highest assessed *Parganah* in the district; with regard to its resources, or its cultivation. the lowest".

The Regular Settlement (1842—44)

The regular settlement of Sonipat tahsil was made from 1842—44 by Mr. Edmonstone. The demand for Sonipat tahsil was fixed at Rs. 3.50 lakh; whereas the total demand of Delhi district was fixed at Rs. 7.50 lakh. The settlement gave a reduction in the *Bangar* of Rs. 2,949 and in the *Khadar* of Rs. 19,761, on the regular Government demand. The payments on the cesses and police were increased, in the *Bangar* by Rs. 10,051 and in the *Khadar* by Rs. 4,908. There was a net reduction of Rs. 7,751. The Settlement Officer considered these reductions necessary. It was ascertained that in the *Khadar* area the district officers and their subordinates had been baffled in realizing the demands of the Government.

During the revolt of 1857, the revenue records were destroyed. By way of punishment, the estates of all rebels were escheated and 3 villages in Sonipat tahsil with other rebel areas of Delhi district were subjected to summary settlement. But these assessments proved to be too heavy and before the second settlement was undertaken, the reduction in assessment was granted on the ground of over assessment. Relief was sufficiently given only in the *Khadar*—the assessment there with one or two exceptions, for which there were special reasons, was moderate. The *Bangar* assessment was too high, although the reduction of Rs. 23,000 was also made in the *Bangar*.

After this, there were no more reductions. The total balances being Rs. 2,942, an insignificant amount which remained unpaid on the one or two villages of *Khadar* which by some oversight had remained heavily overburdened. The balances (Rs. 1,456) in the *Bangar* also were very insignificant.

The Second Regular Settlement (1872)

The revision of the first regular settlement began in 1872 under the auspices of Mr. Oswald Wood, who submitted the assessment reports for two southern tahsil of the then Delhi district. In 1878, he was relieved by Mr. R. Malonachie who wrote the remaining assessment report for Sonipat tahsil and

wound up the operations in 1880. The principles of assessment as embodied in Act XXIII of 1871 were followed. Instead of a two-thirds asset standard, half the net asset standard was adopted in this revision. The records were thoroughly revised. Both the record of rights and other statistical records were prepared in forms.

The revised settlement had two remarkable features, namely; introduction of fluctuating assessment in a few villages affected by the Najafgarh *Jhil* and (2) institution of dry assessment in the canal villages supplemented by a fluctuating owner's rate.

The settlement was sympathetic and the demand was slightly raised. The incidence of land revenue, therefore, worked out to Rs. 1-13-6 per acre. The Punjab Government sanctioned the revision settlement and placed the Delhi district in the first class in the State.

The Third Regular Settlement (1910)

The third regular settlement began in 1906 and was completed in 1910 by Major H.C. Beadon, the Settlement Officer. During these operations revision of the measurements of the 1880 maps was done.

In the Sonipat tahsil, it was found unnecessary in 88 per cent of the villages to resort to re-measurement because the old settlement records were brought up-to-date by the new well known process of correction, colloquially termed *tarmim*. In a few villages, even an abbreviated system known as *tarmim sarsari* was pursued. In the riverain tract where boundaries had been generally obliterated by floods, the village maps were redrawn. The record of rights was drawn up according to the Punjab Land Revenue Act, 1887. A forecast report was also prepared by Beadon, which satisfied the Government that a revision settlement was advisable on account of increase in prices (15 per cent), extension of irrigation (20 per cent) and a small extension of cultivation (3 per cent). The assessment circles for Sonipat tahsil were *Khadar* and *Bangar*. The *Khadar* circles comprised the low lying riverain tracts; the *Bangar* circles were the uplands down which the canals passed. Among these circles the soils were classified into *chahi*, *nahri*, *sailab*, *bhur* and *barani*. The soil rates were fixed accordingly.

On the whole the assessments were reasonable and moderate for Sonipat tahsil. The new assessment for the then Delhi district aggregated to Rs. 15,79,377 which meant an increase of 22.5 per cent over the previous settlement. In the Sonipat tahsil the well irrigation in *Khadar* area increased by

45 per cent; in the northern *Bangar*, the increase was largely due to a different principle of assessment, whereby canal land had been subjected to a wet assessment instead of the former fluctuating owner's rate being considered part of the land revenue.

A special set of rules for 25 villages of Sonipat tahsil situated within reach of the Yamuna, provided that the land revenue had to be remitted or imposed on the land washed away or thrown out by river action. For these villages, the *burd baramad* (alluvion and diluvian) files were prepared in December after the river had receded to its winter level.

Assignment of Land Revenue

The assignment of land revenue fell into two classes, viz (a) those which were granted before the Revolt and continued afterwards, when it was proved that the assignees had taken no part in the Rising and (b) those who were granted after the Revolt generally for loyal service. The former included a large number of petty assignments for the upkeep of shrines and groves.

During the second regular settlement, all these assignments were very carefully scrutinized and recorded in six separate registers having regard to the nature of the assignments, as shown below:—

- (i) Perpetual *mafis* granted before 1857 which were alienable;
- (ii) Perpetual *mafis* granted after 1857 which were not alienable;
- (iii) Quasi-perpetual *mafis* which were held during the pleasure of the Government;
- (iv) Conditional *mafis* which were granted subject to the assigned revenues being spent on the upkeep of religious institutions;
- (v) Conditional *mafis* which were granted subject to the land being kept under trees; and
- (vi) Temporary *Mafis* which were to be resumed as they lapsed.

It must be noted that all assignments (*mafis*) were grants of land revenue only (*mafis* and *jagirs*) and that the ownership over the land remained with the Government. They were grants not of land but land revenue only.

The details pertaining to fixed land revenue of the Sonipat tahsil during 1912-13 to 1932-33 were as follows:—

Year	Demand	Collections	Percentage on demand of collection	Collection during the year on previous year	Total of column 3 and 5
1	2	3	4	5	6
	(Rs.)	(Rs.)	(Rs.)	(Rs.)	(Rs.)
Average 1912-13 to 1915-16	4,28,169	4,27,531	75.0	216	4,27,747
Average 1916-17 to 1920-21	4,52,334	4,47,555	79.13	938	4,48,493
1921-22	4,59,898	4,58,182	99.63	1,131	4,59,313
1922-23	4,60,011	4,59,178	99.81	1,289	4,60,467
1923-24	4,60,442	4,59,864	99.87	546	4,60,410
1924-25	4,61,231	3,69,738	89.16	454	3,70,192
1925-26	4,61,935	4,42,111	95.70	1,929	4,44,040
1926-27	4,61,181	4,59,148	99.00	272	4,59,420
1927-28	4,61,610	4,58,431	99.00	1,115	4,59,546
1928-29	4,61,820	4,34,275	94.00	1,273	4,35,548
1929-30	4,61,778	4,32,938	94.00	8,533	4,41,471
1930-31	4,61,532	2,84,939	62.00	442	2,85,381
1931-32	4,61,053	3,61,990	78.00	49,484	4,11,474
1932-33	4,61,057	4,26,040	92.4	6,866	4,32,906

Settlements of Gohana tahsil (including Kharkhoda areas)

The early settlements of the tahsil were based on the method laid in Regulation IX of 1805 A.D.

Summary Settlements

Gohana Tahsil with Kharkhoda and Mandauthi areas was settled in 1820 by Mr. T.T. Metcalf and Mr. Fraser. During the currency of the next batch of settlements, the old canals was re-opened and the revenue survey of

Gohana and Kharkhoda-Mandauthi areas took place in A.D. 1826-27. Before the revenue survey was completed, all the tahsils of the then Rohtak district were summarily settled once again by Mr. J.P. Gubbins and Mr. J.C. Prant. While the summary settlements were in process, Regulation V of 1832 did away with the control of the Resident in Delhi, by making the territory west of the Jamuna subject to the High Court and Board of Revenue of the North-West Province. Finally, the last summary settlements of the Rohtak district were made by Mr. S. Fraser and Mr. C. Gubbins in 1835 and 1838.

The revenue of the summary settlements was undoubtedly pitched too high throughout the district. The estates and rates fixed during the Summary Settlement on the cultivated area of A.D. 1838 were 80 and Rs. 1-15 *annas* and 11 paise respectively. The Kharkhoda-Mandauthi villages, a part of the then Sampla tahsil, were put to summary settlements. The demand of each settlement for the Kharkhoda-Mandauthi area was as follows:

	Revenue in respect of Kharkhoda-Mandauthi Villages
	Rs.
1st Summary Settlements	1,83,707
2nd Summary Settlements	1,72,284
3rd Summary Settlements	1,71,006
4th Summary Settlements	1,76,104

Regular Settlements

A 30-year regular settlement of Kharkhoda-Mandauthi areas was made in 1837-38 by Mr. C. Gubbins and the regular settlements of Gohana tahsil was made in 1838-39 by Mr. M.R. Gubbins. The result of the new settlements, as compared with the last summary settlements, gave an increase of Rs. 20,929, as follows:—

Tahsil	Revenue of the last summary settlements	Revenue of the Regular Settlements
	(Rs.)	(Rs.)
Gohana (83 Estates) ..	2,39,542	2,42,613
Sampla (68-Kharkhoda-Mandauthi Estates)	1,76,104	1,93,962
Total ; ..	4,15,646	4,36,575

The new demand was never collected in full. It remained in force apparently some two or three years; while the outstanding balances had been remitted. During the later years of the currency of the summary settlements, cultivation in Gohana tahsil increased due to the opening of the canal.

The high revenue authorities wisely and rightly considered that the settlement proposed could not work at all; and under their orders a complete revision of assessment was carried out with the following results, as compared with that first proposed:—

Tahsil	Regular settlement demand	Revised demand
	(Rs.)	(Rs.)
Gohana	2,42,613	2,27,016
Sampla (58 Estates only)	1,93,962	1,76,676

Two-thirds of the lightening of the burden was made in the estates of the then Rohtak tahsil; while a little reduction was needed in Gohana where a canal irrigation was rapidly extending. Due to the new policy of the Government, the cultivation in Gohana tahsil increased by 38½ per cent.

By Act VIII of 1846 it was provided that the currency of the Rohtak Settlement should last till July 1st, 1870. Before this Act was passed, the Rohtak district had been temporarily abolished in May, 1841 but it was re-established in March, 1842. Between 1834 and 1845, a Revised Record of Rights (which must be distinguished from the Revised Assessment of 1838—40) was made.

After 1st War of Independence, the remissions took place entirely in the famine years of 1861-62 and 1868-69. The suspensions given in Gohana tahsil, over and above the remissions, were very small.

2nd Regular Settlement (1873—1879)

The second regular settlement for Gohana tahsil was made between 1873 and 1879 by Mr. Purser who held charge for the operations for 3 years. The remaining operations were completed by Mr. Fanshawe in 1880. There were 4 assessment circles (1. Western rain-land, Central canal, Eastern rain-land and Eastern canal) of Gohana tahsil. The settlement came into force for 30 years with effect from the *kharif* of 1879. It provided the authorities

with excellent maps on the triangular system for the production of which Mr. Purser was famous. The land revenue was raised to Rs. 2,85,663 which was an increase of 27.2 per cent for Gohana tahsil over the last demand. This was a wet demand. The assessment imposed in 1879 was (by the orders of the Government) a dry assessment. Concurrently with its introduction the system of owners' rates was introduced on the canal lands.

Progressive demands were disallowed in the revised settlement, except in the case of one village, three villages in Gohana tahsil and one in Sampla which were severely affected by saline efflorescence received initial settlements for five years only. The remuneration of *zaildars* and *ala-lambardars* was paid by a deduction of one per cent of the revenues of the villages for which they were responsible. Five years after settlement that demand of the four villages temporarily settled was raised by Rs. 1,052, but already deductions had taken place in another direction.

3rd. Regular Settlement (1909-10)

The revision of settlement was effected between 1905 and 1910 by Mr. E. Joseph as settlement officer and it came into force in the year 1909-10. Of the 532 villages of the Rohtak district, 236 were remeasured, on the square system, generally on the scale of 40 *gathas* to the inch or 16 inches to the mile. The maps of the remaining 296 estates were amended and brought upto date. Measurements had been done throughout of the *Pakka* or *Shahjahani bigha* which was equivalent to 5/8th of an acre. The records of this settlement were probably as accurate as those of its predecessor but neither time nor money was allowed for producing them on the same magnificent scale.

The owners' rate was consolidated with occupiers' rates, since the land owners themselves never observed the distinction and charged the cultivators the whole cost of the water. The rates of the land revenue were somewhat raised on the consideration of the average irrigation done while a provision was made for imposing a slight increase of the demand in case of further extension of canal irrigation.

Areas served by the wells were also leniently treated. New wells had been admitted to protective leases, excepting them from wet assessment for a period varying from 20 to 40 years. The provision was made to relieve the existing wells of wet assessment when these fell out of use.

The land revenue (Initial) was fixed at Rs. 3,56,945 where as the final assessment of the revenue was Rs. 3,75,979 during the Third Settlement. There was an increase of 31 per cent of final demand over expired assessment.

The details pertaining to land revenue assessed in the Gohana tahsil during 1901-02 to 1932-33 are as under:—

Year	Demand	Collection	Percentage on demand of collection	Collection during the year on account of previous year	Total of columns 3 and 5.
I	II	III	IV	V	VI
	(Rs.)	(Rs.)	(Rs.)	(Rs.)	(Rs.)
Average 1901-02 to 1905-06 ..	2,11,583	1,90,555	90.08	4,674	1,95,229
Average 1906-07 to 1910-11 ..	2,67,031	2,52,292	93.48	25,057	2,77,349
Average 1916-17 to 1920-21 ..	3,68,055	3,47,994	95.00	31,373	3,79,367
1921-22 ..	3,68,588	3,68,588	100.00	7,893	3,76,481
1922-23 ..	3,69,731	3,69,731	100.00	..	3,69,731
1923-24 ..	3,69,995	3,69,995	100.00	..	3,69,995
1924-25 ..	3,70,305	3,62,282	98.0	..	3,62,282
1925-26 ..	3,71,580	3,63,915	97.0	62	3,63,977
1926-27 ..	3,71,707	3,71,702	100.0	194	3,71,896
1927-28 ..	3,71,709	3,71,164	99.0	5	3,71,169
1928-29 ..	3,71,760	3,71,413	100.0	197	3,71,610
1929-30 ..	3,71,474	2,61,624	95.0	..	2,61,624
1930-31 ..	3,71,277	2,29,978	62.0	..	2,29,978
1931-32 ..	3,72,928	3,22,297	89.0	2,037	3,24,334
1932-33 ..	3,74,173	3,58,986	95.9	14,376	3,73,362

Special Assessment on Land Put to Non-Agricultural Use

In the case of agricultural land, the return to the State under the land revenue settlements is fixed after taking into account factors such as soil, yields, prices, rainfall, rental statistics and economic condition of the area. But when land is put to non-agricultural uses like constructing a residential building or

erecting an industrial plant, the owner of the land gets an unearned increment, particularly if the land is situated within or in the vicinity of growing towns and cities. This increment in land values can generally be attributed to the expenditure incurred out of public revenues on constructing roads and railways and general development of the area. The land-owners are not fully entitled to this increment in values and it is only fair that this increment should be shared with the Government. It was with this object that the Punjab Land Revenue Act, 1887 was amended by the Punjab Act XIII of 1952 which provided for special assessment of land "put to use different from that for which an assessment is in force or when the land has been put to use for non-agricultural purposes such as brickkilns, factories, houses, landing grounds and other similar purposes". The work of special assessment of non-agricultural lands was started in July, 1955.

Since a very elaborate procedure was provided for carrying out the special assessment operations extending over a number of years, it was decided to levy special assessment on *ad hoc* basis as a multiple of the existing land revenue with effect from *Kharif* 1955 and for this purpose, the Punjab Land Revenue (Special Assessment) Act, 1955, was enacted.

While the work of special assessment was in progress, a defect was observed in the Punjab Act XIII of 1952 in as much as it did not permit the levy of special assessment on land put to non-agricultural use if it was not already assessed to land revenue. In other words, the town sites escaped assessment. Accordingly, the Punjab Land Revenue (Amendment) Act XIX of 1958 was passed to provide for assessment of lands except village *abadi deh* (inhabited site of village) whether or not already assessed to land revenue. Certain exemptions were also provided.

Section 48 of the Act XIX of 1958 provides that special assessment on a category and class of sites of land put to non-agricultural use in an assessment circle or part thereof shall not exceed $\frac{1}{4}$ th of the average net letting value ; or 2-4 per cent of the average market value ; or in the case of sites lying vacant and out of use, 1 per cent of the average market value.

The net letting value is derived after making the following deductions from the prevailing annual rent of such sites :—

- (i) Fair remuneration at 5 per cent for the capital invested on building or machinery or both after deducting the depreciation on their value ;
- (ii) house tax ;
- (iii) property tax ; and
- (iv) maintenance charges not exceeding one month's gross rent.

On publication of the preliminary assessment reports, a number of representations were made to Government regarding the harshness of the levy. Government, therefore, took the following decisions on April 4, 1961 :—

(i) The rate of levy at present should not be up to the maximum limit of 25 per cent prescribed in the Punjab Land Revenue (Amendment) Act, 1958 ; it should not exceed $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent of the estimated average net letting value. Where, however, this levy has to be made according to the Act, it should be modified also in the same proportion as above.

(ii) Exemption should be given to the following cases :—

- (a) All hilly areas notified as such by Government ;
- (b) Sites on which new factories are built, for a period of 10 years (i.e. each factory will be exempted for 10 years from the start of working of the factory).

(iii) Substantial relief should be given in the following cases :—

- (a) Compound and courtyard areas surrounding the building and used for purposes such as flower-beds, kitchen garden, grassy lawns, fruit plants, etc.;

- (b) The owner-occupied residential houses and bungalows.

The work of special assessment in areas outside *lal lakir* (line to demarcate the inhabited site of village, not assessed to land revenue) has since been completed. The following statement gives the areas, sites and revenue estates outside the *lal lakir* to be brought under special assessment and income therefrom :—

Tahsil	Area	Sites	Number of villages (Revenue estates) effected	Special Assessment	
				Total	Immediately recoverable
				Rs.	Rs.
Gohana	371 acres, 10 biswas, 14 biswansis, and 63 sq. ft.	734	38	3,269	3,104
Sonipat	576 acres, 2 bighas, 15 biswa, 11 biswansis, and 8 sq. ft.	3,977	48	15,181	14,640

The enforcement of the special assessment was suspended with effect from *Kharif* 1964.

Surcharge on land revenue .—The Punjab Land Revenue (Surcharge) Act, 1954, had been enacted for the levy of a surcharge from the *rabi* harvest of the agricultural year 1953-54. Under the Act, every land-owner who paid revenue in excess of ten rupees was liable to pay a surcharge thereon to the extent of one quarter of land revenue if the amount payable by him as land revenue did not exceed 30 rupees, and two-fifth of the land revenue if it exceeded 30 rupees.

As the surcharge levied from 1955 proved to be inadequate to meet heavy financial obligations created by various development schemes, it became necessary to augment the State revenue in every possible manner and hence a special charge was levied under the Punjab Land Revenue (Special Charge) Act, 1958, from the *rabi* harvest of agricultural year 1957-58. The rate of special charge was based on the income tax pattern with different slabs for different categories of land-owners. The slab rates were such that the incidence of special charge mainly fell on those who could afford to pay it. While the land-holders paying revenue (land revenue plus surcharge) up to Rs. 50 had been exempted from the provisions of the Act.

OTHER ENACTMENTS

A cess on commercial crops namely, cotton, sugarcane and chillies at the rate of Rs. 4 per acre in the case of land which was irrigated by canal water and Rs. 2 per acre in the case of other land, had been levied from *kharif* 1963 under the Punjab Commercial Crops Cess Act, 1963. Areas under commercial crops, sown solely for domestic use up to one *kanal* in the case of chillies and 2 *kanals* in the case of sugarcane or cotton were exempted from this levy.

An additional surcharge on the land revenue at the rate of 50 per cent was levied for the development of Kurukshetra University/town,—*vide* the Haryana Land Revenue (Additional Surcharge) Ordinance No. 2 of 1967. Initially, this had been levied for one year, i.e. for *kharif* 1967 and *rabi* 1968, but it was extended for *kharif* and *rabi* harvests of the agricultural year 1968-69 according to the Haryana Land Revenue (Additional Surcharge) Act, 1969. The levy of surcharge was further extended up to 1973-74,—*vide* the Haryana Land Revenue (Additional Surcharge) Amendment Act, 1970, but it could only be collected up to 1972-73 on account of the enforcement of the Haryana Land Holdings Tax Act, 1973.

Haryana Land Holdings Tax Act, 1973.—The Haryana Land Holdings Tax Act, 1973, came into force on June 16, 1973. The Act consolidated various

levies into a single tax known as Land Holding Tax. The levies consolidated are : —

- (i) Surcharge, under the Punjab Land Revenue (Surcharge) Act, 1954 ;
- (ii) Special Charge, under the Punjab Land Revenue (Special Charges Act, 1958 ;
- (iii) Cess on Commercial Crops, under the Punjab Commercial Crops Cess Act, 1963 ; and
- (iv) Additional Surcharge, under the Haryana Land Revenue (Additional Surcharge) Act, 1969.

The State Government took the view that the collection of these levies had become cumbersome not only for the revenue agency but also for the cultivators. To meet the situation the Haryana Land Holdings Tax Act, 1973, consolidated the above 4 levies into a single tax known as the Land Holding Tax. However, the Land Holding Tax shall not be levied and charged on land which is liable to special assessment under section 59 of the Punjab Land Revenue Act, 1887, or the Punjab Land Revenue (Special Assessment) Act, 1955. Further, during the period the above tax is levied and charged, the land shall not be liable to payment of land revenue by way of general assessment under the Punjab Land Revenue Act, 1887, or the payment of Local Rate under the Punjab Panchayat Samitis and Zila Parishads Act, 1961. The Act brought out a concept of holding on the basis of a family rather than the individual as a unit for the purposes of imposition of tax and provided for graded taxation on the basis of the size of the holding. The present rates of land tax are as under :—

Class of land
(Specified in
Schedule I)
comprising the
land holding

RATE OF TAX

- | | |
|---|---|
| I | <p>.. (a) Seventy paise per 0.05 hectare for the first one hectare ;</p> <p>(b) One rupee per 0.05 hectare for the next four hectares ; and</p> <p>(c) One rupee and thirty five paise per 0.05 hectare for the remaining land.</p> |
|---|---|

1

2

-
- II
- (a) Sixty paise per 0.05 hectare for the first one hectare ;
 - (b) Ninety paise per 0.05 hectare for the next four hectares ; and
 - (c) One rupee and twenty paise per 0.05 hectare for the remaining land.
- III
- (a) Forty paise per 0.05 hectare for the first one hectare ;
 - (b) Fifty paise per 0.05 hectare for the next four hectares ; and
 - (c) Sixty paise per 0.05 hectare for the remaining land.
- IV
- (a) Twenty five paise per 0.05 hectare for the first one hectare ;
 - (b) Forty paise per 0.05 hectare for the next four hectares ; and
 - (c) Fifty paise per 0.05 hectare for the remaining land.
- V
- (a) Ten paise per 0.05 hectare for the first one hectare ;
 - (b) Fifteen paise per 0.05 hectare for the next four hectares ; and
 - (c) Twenty paise per 0.05 hectare for the remaining land.
-

The Sonipat district which was formed on December 22, 1972, comprised the following assessment circles with their different classification of land during 1988-89 :—

Classes of land

Tahsil	Assessment circle	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V
Sonipat	<i>Khadar</i>	<i>Nahri</i>	<i>Chahi & Sailab</i>	<i>Barani</i>	..	<i>Bhud, Banjar, Kallar, Thur and Sem</i>
	<i>Bangar</i>	Do	Do	Do	..	Ditto
	<i>Nehri I</i>	Do	<i>Chahi & Abi</i>	Do	..	Ditto
	<i>Nehri II</i>	Do	Do	Do	..	Ditto
	<i>Khadar</i>	<i>Nahri</i>	<i>Chahi & Sailab</i>	Do	..	Ditto
Ganaur	<i>Bangar</i>	Do	Do	Do	..	Ditto
	<i>Nahri I</i>	Do	<i>Chahi & Abi</i>	Do	..	Ditto
	<i>Nahri II</i>	Do	Do	Do	..	Ditto
	<i>Eastern</i>	<i>Nahri</i>	<i>Chahi</i>	Do	..	Ditto
Gohana	<i>Western</i>	Do	Do	Do	..	Ditto

Kharkhoda Sub-tahsil	<i>Khadar</i>	<i>Nahri</i>	<i>Chahi & Sailab</i>	Do	..	<i>Bhud, Banjar, Kallar, Thur and Sem</i>
	<i>Bangar</i>	Do	Do	Do	..	Ditto
	<i>Nahri I</i>	Do	<i>Chahi & Abi</i>	Do	..	Ditto
	<i>Nahri II</i>	Do	Do	Do	..	Ditto

COLLECTION OF LAND REVENUE

As the district came under the British in the beginning of the 19th century, the assessment and collection of revenue was not in a good state and was much left to be desired. During the early settlements which were very rough and ready proceedings, Sadar Malguzars were engaged for a *patti* or an estate and they were made responsible for the payment of cash assessment. Sadar Malguzars, in turn, were allowed to make what arrangements they could for collection from their co-partners. The most drastic process known to the 'Revenue Code for this area of the North-Western Provinces was constantly and indiscriminately applied when villages fell into arrears, and the abuses of the sale law became a scandal for the administration. If the Sadar Malguzar was in default, the whole *patti* or estate for which he was engaged was put up to auction, and all private rights of ownership annulled in favour of the purchaser who was very frequently the Tahsildar or one of his underlings. Indeed, it is said that by some strange misapprehension the rule applicable to cases of sale for arrears of revenue appears to have been extended not only to the sales of estate under decrees of Court for private debts, but even to the private transfers of the Sadar Malguzars. The powerful machinery of Government was thus rapidly breaking up communities which had survived the crushing exactions of the petty tyrannies which it had replaced. The extent of the evil may be gauged by the extraordinary nature of the remedy applied with very partial success in 1821. In that year the Holt Mackenzie Commission was appointed with power to annul, should equity require it, any public or private transfer of land which had taken place before September 13, 1810. The Regulations of 1822, based on the proposals of the Commission, swept away the worst feature of the sale law.

Under the first regular settlement, Lambardars were required to collect land revenue from concerned communities of land-owners. There were 1,958

Lambardars in the then Rohtak district or one to every 50 land-owners when the revised settlement was taken up by Fanshawe. All the Lambardars wherever possible were appointed headmen to compose the claims of rural claimants in the regular settlement. Thuledars who were representatives chosen by the people in their own councils as distinct from the Lambardars who were only appointed by the Government, got themselves recorded as Lambardars and so obtained hereditary status and some remunerations. The Police Commission Report of 1902-03 proposed a reduction in the number of Lambardars. The acceptance of this proposal resulted in subsequent vacancies not being filled.

The *Zaildari* system was introduced in 1880 to assist *Lambardars* in the realisation of revenue arrears. The following statement gives the information about *Zails* of Sonipat tahsil existed during 1912 :—

Tahsil	Zail	The No. of villages in the Zail	Land revenue demand
			(Rs.)
Sonipat	Sardhana	25	52,025
	Juan	22	49,000
	Ganaur	26	53,200
	Larsauli	20	42,550
	Kheora	23	43,450
	Sonipat	24	35,045
	Bhatgaon	21	50,770
	Rohat	34	72,030
	Rai	25	39,475
	Jakhauli	21	39,675

In the original constitution of *zails*, great care was taken to give effect to local tribal influence and leading men from the dominant tribes of the *zail* were appointed *zaildars*.

The Ala lambardars who were also appointed in 1879 proved to be failure and in 1909, it was decided to do away with them gradually and since the beginning of the third Settlement vacancies were not filled. In their place, it was decided to create *Sufedposhi Inams*. The *Zaildars* and *Safedposh* supervised the collection of land revenue. They were paid a share, usually one per cent, of land revenue, which was set aside for the purpose. The agencies of *Zaildari*

and *Safedposhi* were abolished in 1948, revised in 1950 but again abolished in 1952. During 1988-89, only *lambardars* were responsible for the collection of land revenue. Prior to the enforcement of Land Holdings Tax Act, 1973, a *lambardar* was paid *pachotara*, a cess at the rate of 5 per cent of land holding tax. Since various levies had been consolidated into land holding tax, the rate of *pachotara* had been fixed at 3 per cent of the new tax.¹ In case, the *lambardar* was unable to collect the tax, he made the written petition to the Tahsildar who helped him in its recovery. Besides, the *lambardar* also collects dues pertaining to the Minor Irrigation and Tubewells Corporation, consolidation fee and *abiana* and is paid commission at the rate of 1, 5 and 3 per cent, respectively. The total number of *lambardars* in the district on March 31, 1989 was 1,636.

REVENUE ADMINISTRATION AND LAND RECORDS

For the purpose of revenue management, the State is divided into various districts and a district is subdivided into tahsils. A tahsil is further sub-divided into *Kanungo* Circles, *Patwar* circles and revenue estates. Thus the unit of revenue administration is an estate which is usually identical with the village. Each of them was separately assessed to land revenue and has a separate record of rights and register of fiscal and agricultural statistics. All its proprietors were by law jointly responsible for the payment of land revenue, and in their dealing with the Government they were represented by one or more *lambardars*. Estates are grouped into *patwar* circle each of which is under the charge of a *patwari*. The *Kanungo* supervises the work of *patwaris*. The following *Kanungo* circles, *patwar* circles and revenue estates existed in the district during 1988-89 :—

Tahsil	Kanungo Circles	Patwar Circles	Revenue Estates
Sonipat	Sonipat-I	17	43
	Sonipat-II	14	30
	Rai	13	44
	Murthal	12	38
Gohana	Gohana No. I	14	24
	Gohana No. II	12	24
	Mundlana	16	26
	Baroda	12	19
Ganaur	Ganaur	15	38
	Purkhas	14	29
Kharkhoda (Sub-tahsil)	Kharkhoda	22	45
Total :	11	161	360

(1) The land revenue (land holdings) tax was abolished in Haryana on 16th October, 1986.

The tahsil-wise details of the staff attending to revenue work in the district are given below :—

Tahsil		Tahsildar	Naib-Tahsildars	Office Kanungos	Field Kanungos	Patwaris
Sonipat	..	1	2	1	4	55
Gohana	..	1	2	1	4	54
Ganaur	..	1	..	1	2	29
Kharkhoda (Sub-tahsil)	..	..	1	..	1	22

For the purpose of revenue administration, as already mentioned in Chapter X, the district is under the charge of a Deputy Commissioner whose title as Chief District Revenue Officer, is 'Collector', a term which indicates his responsibility for the realisation of all government revenues. The Collector is bound to preserve from encroachment every private right in the soil which has been created or confirmed by the State. Where the demand was fixed for a term only, he was not only to collect it but also to look forward to a time when it would be revised and hence he is to record, in a systematic manner, statistical information which will facilitate its equitable assessment. He must ensure and assist in the measures to prevent the damage to crops from causes which are in any degree controllable by man. He must encourage and assist in every effort made by a right holder for the development of his estate. He is assisted by District Revenue Officer in all revenue matters and administration.

The Tahsildar is an important functionary. He is in charge of a tahsil for revenue work including revenue judicial work. He has to control the *patwar* and *Kanungo* agency, to collect dues punctually, to point out promptly to the Collector any failure of crops or seasonal calamity which renders suspension or remission necessary and to carry out within his own sphere other duties connected with revenue administration. He is a touring officer and his tours afford him ample opportunities to deal, on the spot, with partition cases and other matters connected with appointment of Lambardars, lapses of government dues assignments, etc.

The Patwari is an inheritance from the old village system¹. He is appointed for a circle consisting of one or more villages. Besides the proper maintenance of records, the Patwari is required to report to the Tahsildar any calamity affecting land, crops, cattle or the agricultural classes, and to bring to his notice alluvial and di-alluvial action of river, encroachments on Government lands, the death of revenue assignee and pensioners, progress of works made under the agricultural loans and similar laws, and the emigration or immigration of cultivators. He undertakes surveys and field inspections, aids in all other Government activities like distribution of relief, etc., prepares the *baachh* (distribution of revenue over holdings) papers showing the demand due from each land owner to the village *jama* (land revenue demands). When dues collections are in progress, he must furnish all information that may be required to facilitate the collections. He himself is not permitted to take any part in the collection of the dues except when any Lambardar refuses to accept the *dhal baachh* (total demand from each land owner) and no immediate alternative arrangement can be made.

The Patwari is under the immediate supervision of a circle supervisor known as Kanungo who has also been functioning since medieval times. The Kanungo is responsible for the conduct and work of Patwaris. He constantly moves about his circle, supervising the work of Patwaris, except in the month of September when he stays at tahsil headquarters to check *jamabandis* received from Patwaris.

The Office Kanungo is the Tahsildar's revenue clerk. His chief work is the maintenance of the statistical revenue records. He has also the charge of the forms and stationery required by Patwaris, keeps the account of mutation fee, records the rainfall and maintains the register of assignees of land revenue and other miscellaneous revenue registers. He is the custodian of all the records received from the Patwaris. A well-ordered Kanungo's office is an important factor in the revenue management of a tahsil.

At district headquarters, there is a District or Sadar Kanungo assisted by a Naib Sadar Kanungo. The Sadar Kanungo is responsible for the efficiency of Kanungos and should be in camp inspecting their work for at least 8 days in every month from October to April. He is the keeper of all records received from Kanungos and Patwaris. He maintains with the help of his assistant, copies of the prescribed statistical registers for each assessment circle, tahsil and the whole district. The responsibility of Tahsildar and Naib Tahsildar for the inspection and correctness of the work of Kanungos and Patwaris is, however, not affected by the duties of the Sadar Kanungo.

1. He was, under section 3 of the Land Revenue Act, a "Village Officer" and not a Government employee. Patwaris were formally paid from the cess on the land revenue but in 1906 the State took over the charge and abolished the *Patwar* cess and the *Patwar* fund.

LAND REVENUE AND SPECIAL CESSES**Land Holdings Tax¹**

The Land Holdings Tax Act, 1973 was enforced in 1973 and thereafter the collection of land revenue, surcharge, special charge, cess on commercial crops, additional surcharge and local rate were stopped and only land holdings tax was collected.

The collection of land holdings tax during 1979-80 to 1982-83 is as under :—

Year	Total Revenue from land (excluding cesses)
	(Rs.)
1979-80	23,95,861
1980-81	16,92,794
1981-82	17,41,704
1982-83	16,25,606

LAND REFORMS**Agrarian Reforms**

It has been felt for long that agrarian reforms were necessary. With the attainment of Independence it became clear that a sound land policy should take up the question of ameliorating the conditions of the tenants ; it should also consider laying down a ceiling to land holding . The landlords became restive fearing that they would be deprived of the lands which had been cultivated for years by their tenants. They started bringing these lands under their direct management. They also began to partition their lands or transfer them in the names of their relatives and friends with a view to reducing the areas of their holdings. All this resulted in harassment to the tenants whose position became shaky.

The history of land system in the State reveals that there were three parties who shared rights in land, viz. the State, the proprietor and the tenant. The long-standing interest of the State lay in its claim to a share of the produce of the land from its cultivators.

No material change occurred in the system of land holding between 1910 1947. Villages with small holdings were the rule except for a few *zamindari*

1. Land holding tax was abolished in 1986.

type of villages. Relationship between the landlords and the tenants was generally satisfactory, though it tended to lean in favour of the landlords. This position became different after Independence when Government decided to introduce suitable land reforms. A great deal of land was cultivated by peasant proprietors of small holdings convenient for self-cultivation or it was held by intermediaries who got it cultivated through tenants but who had themselves no interest in the land beyond getting their rent. The tenants were mainly occupancy tenants, tenants-at-will or *Adna Maliks*. All these combined formed a sizeable proportion of the rural population. Their lot had to be improved in pursuance of the Government policy of 'land for the tiller'. Accordingly the following laws were enacted:—

- (i) The East Punjab Utilization of Lands Act, 1949
- (ii) The Punjab Abolition of Malkiat and Talukadari Rights Act, 1952
- (iii) The Punjab Occupancy Tenants (Vesting of Proprietary Rights) Act, 1952
- (iv) The Punjab Security of Land Tenures Act, 1953
- (v) The Punjab Bhudan Yagna Act, 1955.
- (vi) The Punjab Resumption of Jagirs Act, 1957
- (vii) The Punjab Village Common Lands (Regulation) Act, 1961

Under the East Punjab Utilization of Lands Act, 1949, the Government enforced the optimum utilization of cultivable land, and any land left uncultivated for 6 or more consecutive harvests was acquired and leased out for a term ranging from 7 years to twenty years for cultivation, priority being given to Harijans.

Under the Punjab Abolition of Ala Malikiyat and Talukdari Rights Act, 1952, the rights of an *ala malik* in the land held by an *adna malik* were abolished and the *adna malik* was required to pay compensation for proprietary rights.

The Punjab Occupancy Tenants (Vesting of Proprietary Rights) Act, 1952 declared all occupancy tenants as owners of the land.

The main purpose of the Punjab Security of Land Tenures Act, 1953, is to (i) provide a 'permissible area' to a land-owner/tenant which he can retain for self-cultivation, (ii) provide security of tenures to tenants by protecting them against ejection, (iii) ascertain surplus area and secure resettlement of ejected tenants of those areas, (iv) fix the maximum rent payable by tenants, and (v) confer rights on tenants to pre-empt and purchase their tenancy in certain circumstances.

Its object being to effect agrarian reform and to give security to the tenants, the Act provided for the settlement of tenants on the land declared surplus and also fixed a ceiling on the total holding of a land-owner. It not only reduced the acreage which could be reserved but also specifically prohibited ejectment of tenants from all un-reserved areas, except in case of default in payment of rent or improper cultivation. Section 9-A enacted,—vide Act XI of 1955, provided that no tenant liable to ejectment would be dispossessed of his tenancy unless he was accommodated on a surplus area or otherwise on some other land by the State Government. Rent was limited to one-third of the crop or its value or to the customary rent, if that was lower. However, payment for services provided by the landlord was excluded from the computation of rent. The Act further extended the opportunities for tenants to become owners. A tenant of 4-year standing acquired a right of pre-emption at sales or foreclosures; but more important than that, tenants of 6-year standing were allowed to buy un-reserved area from their landlords at three quarters of the 10 years average of prices of similar land. The payment of compensation, however, could be made by the tenant either in lump sum or in six-monthly instalments not exceeding ten.

Government was further empowered to utilise the surplus area of both land-owners and tenants for the re-settlement of ejected tenants, landless labourers and small land-owners. All areas owned by a local owner above 30 standard acres and by a displaced person above 50 standard acres were assessed as surplus. A small owner, who had up to 30 standard acres, may not eject a tenant under the Act from 5 standard acres unless the tenant has been settled by Government on surplus area.

In this way, the Act aims at creating what is called a class of small 'land-owners', i.e. holders of land not exceeding the permissible area (30 standard acres in the case of local owners and 50 standard acres in the case of displaced persons from Pakistan). The utmost emphasis has been laid on self-cultivation which means cultivation by a land-owner either personally or through his wife or through such of his relations as may be prescribed, or under his supervision'.

By March, 1983, an area of 4,600 hectares was declared surplus in the district. Out of this area 3,190 hectares of surplus land was exempted due to other reasons. Land measuring 1,386 hectares was made available for distribution. The area of 575 hectares was allotted to 575 Harijans. The remaining land of 811 hectares was allotted to other persons.

The Punjab Bhudan Yagna Act, 1955 was passed to promote the Bhudan movement with the object of resettling landless cultivators on land received through voluntary donations. An area of 2 hectares of land was received in Bhudan movement by March 31, 1989.

Under the Punjab Resumption of Jagirs Act, 1957, all *jagirs*, *mafis* and jagir pensions except military *jagirs* or grants made to religious or charitable institutions granted on or before August 4, 1914, were resumed.

In 1972, on the recommendations of the Central Land Reforms Committee, the Haryana Ceiling on Land Holdings Act, 1972 was enacted. The Act repealed the provisions of two earlier Acts in so far as these relate to the ceiling on land holdings and utilization of surplus area.

The new Act provides for the assessment of permissible area in relation to a family instead of an individual and reduces the permissible area limit to 7.25 hectares of land under assured irrigation capable of growing at least, two crops in a year, 10.9 hectares of land under assured irrigation capable of growing atleast 1 crop in a year or 21.8 hectares in respect of any other land including *banjar* and land under orchards. In case the family comprises more than 3 minor children an additional area at the rate of 1/5 of the permissible area of the primary unit is permitted for each additional member provided that the total does not exceed twice the permissible area of the unit. The head of a primary unit has also been given a right to select for each of his major sons (or widow and minor children of pre-deceased son) area equivalent to the permissible limit of primary unit. Further, unlike the Punjab Security of Land Tenures Act, 1953, the new Act provides for vesting the rights of surplus area in the Government and for its utilization for settlement of tenants and other economically weaker sections of society like members of the Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes, landless persons, agricultural workers and others.

By March, 1989, an area of 228 hectares was declared surplus. The area of 54 hectares was allotted to 47 Harijans and the remaining area of 115 hectares was distributed to 113 persons.

Consolidation of Holdings

Alongside the reform of the land tenure, are the measures for reducing strip farming and fragmentation of holdings. A characteristic feature of peasant land tenure and cultivation over a length of time had been the fragmented holdings which usually consisted of small and often, many strips of land, lying between the fields of other peasants. This had been the case with farms of both tenants and peasants who owned land. The tiller naturally found it difficult to look after his crops scattered at different places and it was also cumbersome to maintain long channels and water courses intact. Systematic and large-scale development was not possible when the holdings were small and fields lay scattered.

The process of bringing together small and fragmented pieces of land into a compact block for better and intensive cultivation is known as consolidation of holdings. It saves the tiller to a great extent from wasteful supervision

and irrigation of scattered holdings. It enables him to avail of the facilities of modern agricultural implements and extend tractor cultivation in consolidated holdings. It is only through the consolidation of holdings that the land lying scattered in tiny strips can assume a compact and standard shape. Uneconomic, neglected and inaccessible holdings are re-grouped into a consolidated, composite and homogeneous block. A lot of virgin land is also reclaimed by the Government as a corollary to the scheme. The circular and approach roads increase the mobility between houses and the provision of land for institutions like Panchayat Ghars and schools promotes the social welfare programmes. In fact, consolidation brings about a revolution in both the economic structure of land tilling, and the mobility and social possibilities of the village.

The work of consolidation of land holdings had been taken up in the undivided Punjab by the Cooperative Department during 1930 but in the absence of legislation, it did not make much headway. To make good this deficiency, the State Government enacted the East Punjab Holdings (Consolidation and Prevention of Fragmentation) Act, 1948, and created a separate Consolidation Department in 1949. The work relating to consolidation of land holdings was started in 1950 in Rohtak (Sonipat) District. Out of the total 353 villages, the work of consolidation of land holdings had been completed in 341 villages. During 1982-83, the work was in progress in 2 villages. Now no village is left in this district where consolidation is to be completed except 3 villages, which are unfit for consolidation being Subject to urban area.

OTHER SOURCES OF REVENUE, STATE AND CENTRAL

State Sources of Revenue

The State Government derives its revenue from various other sources, which are described briefly.

Stamp Duty.—This duty is collected under the Court Fees Act, 1870 and the Indian Stamp Act, 1899. Both the Acts have been amended a number of times. The court Fees Act, was amended by the Court Fees (Haryana Amendment) Act, 1974, while the Indian Stamp Act was amended by the Haryana Act No. 7 of 1967. The Acts require the Collector (Deputy Commissioner), District and Session Judge and Sub-Judges to ensure that the applications for all suits and other relevant documents are properly Stamped according to schedule.

Registration Fee.—The Deputy Commissioner is the Registrar in the district. The Tahsildars and Naib-Tahsildars are Sub-Registrars and Joint Sub-Registrars, respectively. Appeals from the orders of the Sub-Registrar are heard by the Registrar. The Inspector General of Registration, Haryana, Chandigarh exercises general superintendence over all the registration offices in the state and has power to make rules consistent with the Indian Registration Act, 1908.

Excise and Taxation.—For the administration of Excise and Taxation Acts, the district in March, 1989, was under the charge of the Deputy Excise and Taxation Commissioner who was assisted by 8 Excise and Taxation Officers and 14 Assistant Excise and Taxation Officers. He was further assisted by 7 Inspectors on the excise and side, and 42 Inspectors on taxation side.

To check the sales tax evasion, the following Sales Tax barriers were on March 31, 1989:—

Serial No.	Name of the Sales Tax Check Barrier
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1. Kundli
 2. Saidpur
 3. Akbarpur Barota
 4. Nahra-Nahri
 5. Shiv Puri
 6. Garh-Malikpur
 7. Sohati
-



Apart from checking evasion of sales tax the staff posted at the check barriers is also entrusted with the work of checking the vehicles under the Punjab Passengers and Goods Taxation Act, 1952.

The State and Central Acts enforced by the Excise and Taxation Department in the district on excise side are ;

- (i) The Punjab Excise Act, 1914
- (ii) The Punjab Local Option Act, 1923.
- (iii) The East Punjab Molasses (Control) Act, 1948
- (iv) The Opium Act, 1878
- (v) The Dangerous Drug Act, 1930
- (vi) The Indian Power Alcohol Act, 1948
- (vii) The Medicinal and Toilet Preparations (Excise Duties) Act, 1955.

On the taxation side, the State and Central Acts administered by the department in the district are:—

1. The Haryana General Sales Tax Act, 1973
2. The Punjab Passengers and Goods Taxation Act, 1952
3. The Punjab Entertainment Duty Act, 1955.
4. The Punjab Entertainment (Cinematograph Shows) Act, 1939.
5. The Punjab Motor Spirit (Taxation of Sales) Act, 1939
6. The Central Sales Tax Act, 1956
7. The Prize Competition Act, 1955

Sales Tax.—It is a tax on the sale or purchase of movable goods in one form or another. It is levied under the Haryana General Sales Tax Act, 1973 which has replaced the Punjab General Sales Tax Act, 1948, since May 5, 1973. Some of the commodities which are generally consumed by relatively poor sections of people have been exempted from taxation, whereas luxury goods which are consumed by the well to do people are taxed at a higher rate. Thus foreign liquor and Indian made foreign liquor are taxed at 20 per cent and motor vehicles, auto-cycles, refrigerators, clocks and watches, iron and steel safes and almirahs, radios and radio-parts, gramophones, tape recorders etc are taxed at the rate of 10 per cent.

The important goods exempted from the tax are electric energy, agricultural implements, fertilizers, vegetables (except when sold in tins, bottles or cartons), fresh fruit, sugar, textiles, goods sold to the Indian Red Cross Society, St. John Ambulance Association, the Co-operative for American Relief Everywhere (CARE), United Nations Technical Assistance Board, Save the Children Fund Association, United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund, World Health Organisation and co-operative societies certified by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission.

Special concessional treatment has been given to a few selected items such as foodgrains, declared goods¹, ready-made garments, tractors, pesticides, raw wool, knitting wool and raw hides.

Central Sales Tax.—The Central Sales Tax Act, 1956, provides for levy of tax on sales made in the course of inter-state trade and commerce. The states have been authorised to administer this Act on behalf of the Government of India. The entire collection of this tax is appropriated by the states. This

1. Goods which are of special importance in inter-state trade have been termed as declared goods.

central fiscal enactment has given the States a major source of revenue which is increasing day by day. The rate of tax was 4 per cent on inter-state sale to registered dealers or on declared goods to registered or unregistered dealers and 10 per cent on inter-state sale to unregistered dealers. Under Section 8(5) of the Central Sales Tax Act, 1956, the State Government has been empowered to reduce the rate of tax on certain classes of goods, or class of dealers or traders if it is expedient to do so in the interest of the state.

Passengers and Goods Tax.—The Punjab Passengers and Goods Taxation Act, 1952 came into force on August 1, 1952. The Act provides that a tax shall be levied on all fares and freights in respect of passengers carried and goods transported in transport vehicles for the public in the state. The rate of tax, which was 25 per cent of the fare or freight paid by a passenger, was enhanced to 35 per cent on July 21, 1967 and to 40 per cent on October 7, 1969. In 1977-78 it was 60 per cent of the fare and freight. However, in some cases the levy is charged in lump sum.

Entertainment Duty.—The Punjab Entertainments Duty Act, 1936 was replaced by the Punjab Entertainments Duty Act, 1955, on November 4, 1955. The rates of duty have been changing over the years. The rate of tax on the payment of admission to a show, which had been 50 per cent since 1967-68, was raised to 60 per cent from December 12, 1970 and further to 75 per cent from January 19, 1971. The rate was revised to 100 per cent from January 15, 1973. This rate stood further revised with effect from September 1, 1977 to 125 per cent¹. Its incidence falls on persons who witness the entertainment.

Property Tax.—This tax was levied under the Punjab Urban Immovable Property Tax Act, 1940. It is charged at the of 10 per cent of the annual rental value of the buildings and lands situated in the rating areas. A surcharge of 50 percent of tax was levied from 1967-68. The self-occupied residential units are, however, exempt from the levy of the tax to encourage construction activities in the State with effect from April, 1976. Due to the merger of House Tax in the Property Tax, the rate of tax was enhanced to 20 per cent, whereas the rate of surcharge had been reduced to 25 per cent. The rate of property tax on self occupied houses is 10 per cent.

The Punjab Urban Immovable Property Tax Act, 1940 was repealed by the Government with effect from April, 1, 1977 through an Ordinance. The Ordinance has, however, lapsed as it was not replaced by an Act within the time prescribed under the Constitution of India. The Act *ibid* has, therefore, been revived with effect from July 7, 1977.

¹It was made 100 per cent for 30 per cent seats in a cinema hall provided these are comprised in complete rows, with effect from December 15, 1978.

Professions Tax.—Every person who has been carrying on a trade, either by himself or through an agent or representative, or who has followed a profession or calling or who is in employment either wholly or in part, within the State, is liable to pay for each financial year (or a part thereof) professions tax under the Punjab Professions, Trades, Callings and Employment Taxation Act, 1956. The maximum limit of the tax was Rs. 250 per annum and the minimum Rs. 120. However, no tax was charged from the persons whose annual income was below Rs. 6,000.

The Punjab Professions, Trades, Callings and Employment Taxation Act, 1956 has been repealed since April, 1977.

Show Tax.—The Punjab Entertainment Tax (Cinematograph Shows) Act, 1954 came into force on May 4, 1954. This show tax is levied on exhibitors for every show on the number of occupied seats of a cinema house. A uniform policy was prescribed for the State of Haryana and rates of show tax were changed to 10 percent of the entertainment duty on June 18, 1974. It was reduced to 9 percent from March 8, 1979.

Motor Spirit Tax.—This tax was levied under the Punjab Motor Spirit (Taxation of Sales) Act, 1939. The rate of tax has been changed number of times. In 1970-71, It was six paise per litre on petrol and other motor spirit items. However, since July 21, 1967, the stage of levy of tax has been shifted from 'last sale' to 'first sale' within the State. This change has minimised the difficulty experienced earlier by traders and only depots of oil companies who make 'first sale' pay the tax.

The present rate of tax is 12 paise per litre on high speed diesel and 15 paise per litre on petrol.

The collections from the above stated taxes, viz. Excise Tax, Property Tax, Passengers and Goods Tax, Motor Spirit Tax, Sales Tax, Professions Tax and Central Sales Tax in the district during 1986-87 to 1988-89 are given below :

	1986-87	1987-88	1988-89
	(Rs.)	(Rs.)	(Rs.)
Excise Tax ..	76,74,46,311	17,14,98,700	20,18,66,874
Property Tax ..	..	..	..
Passengers Tax & Goods Tax	3,52,55,826	4,01,13,100	4,96,61,540
Entertainment duty ..	59,59,334	63,04,400	53,58,776
Show Tax ..	5,18,782	5,61,300	4,67,720
Mobile Spirit Tax ..	..	..	..
Sales Tax ..	58,09,055	7,61,10,400	10,94,96,047
Professions tax ..	..	..	..
Central Sales Tax ..	6,80,92,684	7,31,19,800	9,22,16,198

CENTRAL SOURCES OF REVENUE

Central Excise Duties.—The Central Excise is administered by the Union Government. The Sonipat district has two Central excise range, i.e. Sonipat and Kundli range. Both the ranges come under the charge of Assistant Collector, Central Excise, Rohtak. He is under the Collector of Central Excise, Delhi.

The main sources of Central Excise revenue in the district are electric bulbs, iron and steel, oxygen gas, vegetable products, hand tools, duplex board, electric wires and cables.

Income Tax.—The Indian Income Tax Act, 1922, has been replaced by the Income Tax Act, 1961, with effect from 1st April, 1962. There are Income Tax Officers. whose duty is to collect this tax. The Office was established at Sonipat on 15th November, 1965. The Income Tax Officer, administers Income Tax, Estate Duty and Gift Tax.

Estate Duty.—The Estate Duty Act, 1953 came into force on 15th October, 1953. The duty was leviable on the estate of those persons who died after this date. Proceedings for levy have to be initiated within five years of death, but no time has been fixed for completion of assessment. The Collection made under this Act in the district from 1980-81 to 1982-83 is given below:—

Year	Collection
	(Rs.)
1980-81	.. 40,000
1981-82	.. 77,000
1982-83	.. 1,30,000

The Estate duty was abolished in March, 1985.

Wealth Tax.—The wealth Tax Act, 1957 came into force from assessment year 1957-58. The tax is levied if not wealth exceeds Rs. 1 lakh in case of individuals and Rs. 2 lakh in case of Hindu undivided family.

Gift Tax.—The Gift Tax Act was enforced from 1st April, 1958. It is levied on gifts, moveable or immovable, whose value exceeds Rs. 5,000.

CHAPTER XII

LAW AND ORDER AND JUSTICE

LAW AND ORDER

INCIDENCE OF CRIME

The predominant form of crime was burglary in the beginning of the present century. Another important crime prevalent in the area was cattle lifting, as cattle were considered very important source of subsistence. The cattle thefts were performed in a very systematic form; the animals being rapidly transferred to a great distance and to other district through a chain of accomplices.

The criminals and bad characters of a particular caste confined themselves to shop-lifting and obtained a livelihood by attending the numerous fairs which were held in Delhi and neighbourhood and they used to steal everything. They also wandered about in gangs in the area and pilfered from villages. They had no settled home in the district but came from other parts of the surrounding areas. The Kanjars and Sansis had no fixed habitations towards the close of 19th century. They lived in *chapars* in the jungles and came to the public roads and committed thefts of small things from travellers. Among this class, the women were as inclined to crime as the men. Some persons of a particular caste of Rohat village were notorious thieves and house-breakers. Numbers of complaints were made concerning them by the *lambardars* of the surrounding villages.¹

The modus operandi of the crime committed by the wandering gangs of Sansis is as follows :—

“They wander about from place to place in gangs of 6 to 100 souls committing petty thefts in villages, pasturing their flocks and pilfering the zamindar's grain. They own large herds of goats, sheep and donkeys. Their goats and sheep form a visible means of subsistence, while the donkeys carry not only tents, bed, etc., but also sacks of grain stolen in the course of their wanderings. These gangs are a nuisance and a scourge to the countryside. The only means of dealing with them short of settling them in Government lands lies in the preventive sections of the Criminal Procedure Code which is extremely unsatisfactory.”

1. *Gazetteer of Delhi District*, 1883-84, p. 148.

Undoubtedly the people of the district have been law-abiding. Hence the crime situation here was generally normal. The following extract of the old Gazetteer¹ confirmed above-mentioned situation of crime :

“The people of the district are not, as a rule, addicted to crime. There is very little premeditated crime, but when blood runs hot very minor squabbles are apt to develop in a way which leads the disputants to serious trouble. Fifty years of peace and settled rule following the stern lesson of 1857 has transformed the agrestic population, who can be no longer described (as they were by Sir John Lawrance as “Predatory and turbulent.”).

In this area the crime position was reviewed in 1920 and was reported to be light. The position, however, changed in the forties and many factors were responsible for this change. Consequent upon a famine in the district, there was a marked rise in crimes in 1939. Inadequacy of canal water-supply and frequent closures of distributaries added to the difficulties of the peasants who, for irrigating their withering crops, resorted to unlawful means with the result that canal cuts were numerous.

A communal riot over cow-slaughter also occurred in the Barota village of the Gohana tahsil. The village (Barota) comprised two parts, one inhabited by the Hindus and other by Muslim Baluches. A baluch slaughtered a cow and enraged the Hindus. There was a scuffle between the Hindus and Muslims as a result of which one Baluch died and several others received injuries. The dispute ended in a compromise according to which Hindu Jats were not to rear pigs while the Muslims were forbidden to slaughter kine.

The communal disturbances of 1947 resulted in diminishing respect for law and moral values. The police force had to perform a difficult task to combat the heavy spate of lawlessness and restore confidence in the minds of the law-abiding people. The work of the police had further been rendered difficult as a result of certain changes effected for political reason. The abolition of non-official agencies like the Honorary Magistrates, *Zaildars* and *Safedeposhes*, which in previous regime, were a source of strength to the administration deprived the police administration of support in its work in the rural areas. Without them the morale of the remaining rural functionaries such as *Lambardars* and *Chowkidars* fell so low that they no longer enjoyed either their former status or the confidence of the villagers.

¹. Gazetteer of Delhi District, 1912, p. 67.

In spite of the difficulties, the efforts were made to weed out and control anti-social elements. Before long, the forces of law and order were re-established and the administration got the better of crimes and the criminals. Banwari of Rohtak was a great menace to public peace and tranquility. He was a type of person who committed murders without a semblance of provocation and often without any reason. He was wanted in no less than 10 cases of murder, attempted murder, robbery and burglary. He created a reign of terror in the jurisdiction of Raj and Sonapat police stations besides the other areas. On June 29/30, 1950, he was killed in police encounter. As a consequence of vigorous efforts in this direction, there was an improvement in the law and order situation from 1950 onwards.

The common crimes brought to the notice of police in the district were simple thefts including cattle thefts, murder, robbery and burglary. The crimes accompanied with violence were not common. However, committing suicide by jumping into wells and before the running trains by women was common.

The crime-wise trend remained in the district during 1983 to 1989 is as follows :—

Name of the Crime	Year						
	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
Murder	18	27	21	33	41	40	32
Dacoity	..	1	3	2	5	4	3
Burglary	134	152	149	109	187	221	133
Thefts	220	237	203	237	273	263	204
Robbery	7	4	7	1	12	24	8
Kidnapping	15	6	3	2	7	25	10
Rioting or unlawful assembly	35	42	20	38	18	22	17
Culpable homicide	16	15	10	10	5	7	6
Miscellaneous	1,883	1,846	1,898	1,868	1,799	1,908	1,504
Total	2,328	2,330	2,314	2,300	2,347	2,514	1,947

The motive for murder include land disputes, intoxication, illicit relations, water disputes and domestic quarrels. The district is predominantly inhabited by sturdy Jats who are exceptionally revengeful by nature and among whom the tradition of long lasting vendetta is very strong. The statistics are slippery and fluctuating. The murder cases in the district rose progressively from 21 in 1985 to 33 in 1986 and 41 in 1987 but such cases came down in 1988 and 1989.

No dacoity occurred in 1983. The incidence of dacoity was not so high in the district. However, there was an increase in the number of dacoity cases during 1984 to 1985. Number of such cases reported in the district was 14 during 1986 to 1989.

There was a sudden increase in the number of cases of burglary from 1986 to 1988, but it decreased in 1989. The situation is now under control.

237 cases of thefts were reported in 1984 which declined to 203 in 1985. The theft cases rose up to 237 in 1986 and 273 in 1987. But in 1988 the position improved somewhat and number of such cases came down to 263 in 1988.

The incidence of robbery suddenly increased during 1987 and 12 cases were reported during the one year. In the next year the incidence of crime suddenly rose up in 1988 and number of such cases reported in 1988 was 24. Thereafter, the robbery cases came down to 8 in 1989.

The reported cases of kidnapping and abduction have been isolated in character and not the work of any organized gang.

The position of rioting and culpable homicide cases is normal and well under control. The miscellaneous cases numbering 1,504 during 1989 were reported in the district.

Delhi—the capital of India has spread widely due to enormous expansion in population. Large areas have been acquired along the G.T. Road. As a result, the prices of land from Kundli to Gaur along G.T. Road have skyrocketed now-a-days. A class of neo rich has emerged. On account of capitalistic tendencies, many land disputes and other petty disputes have become matters of concern to the Administration.

POLICE

It has already been indicated that Sonipat area remained a part of Delhi district up to 1912. Gohana tahsil was a part of Rohtak district.

In 1910, the police administration in the Sonipat area was under control of Deputy Inspector-General of Police, whose headquarters was at Ambala. The police force was under the command of a Superintendent whose immediate

subordinates were at least one Assistant Superintendent and Deputy Superintendent. Besides, there were Inspectors, Sub-Inspectors, Head Constables, Foot Constables and Sowars.

There was a special charge of a Inspector with headquarters at Sonipat who controlled the rural police of this area. The then Sonipat tahsil had the following (*thanas*) police stations:—

1. Larsauli
2. Sonipat
3. Rai.

In each *thana* there were one Sub-Inspector, 2 Head Constables and 10 Foot Constables, but at Larsauli (which was the most populous *thana*) there was an extra Sub-Inspector and two extra Constables, as there more than 100 cases were reported per year.

In 1910, the Rohtak district for the purpose of Police administration was divided into 2 circles; Rohtak and Jhajjar. Gohana area having only 2 police stations (Gohana and Baroda) was included into Rohtak Circle. The police force consisting of one Sub-Inspector, 2 Head Constables and 10 Foot Constables was posted at Gohana police station. The same strength of police officials was posted at Baroda police station.

Above and beyond the sanctioned strength of lower subordinates (all grades below Sub-Inspectors), a reserve of 15 per cent was allowed, i.e. 11 per cent for leave and 4 per cent for other vacancies. This force was under the Reserve Inspector and ■ Sub-Inspector.

No difficulty was experienced in obtaining sufficient and suitable recruits. A recruit after joining was kept in lines for about 6 months during which period he was drilled and trained in the use of fire-arms. For 3 to 4 hours ■ day he attended school where he was taught the outlines of his duties and, if possible, how to read and write.

Constables from rural police stations were called in rotation for two months' training, when in addition to being drilled, they attended school in the same way as recruits. Each year a certain number of men about one per cent of the force were sent to Police Training School at Phillaur where they attended six months' course. At the end of this period those who passed what was known as Lower School Test were considered fit for promotion to the rank of Head Constables.

In the same way selected Head Constables, 1st Grade were sent for a six months' course and those who passed the Upper School Test were considered fit for promotion to the rank of Sub-Inspector. All men sent to the

Training School were selected by the Deputy Inspector General from amongst these recommended by the Superintendent of Police. The "detective Force" was posted at Police Stations. The Gohana area had Gohana, Kharkhoda and Mundlana police stations or Chowkis.

During 1938-89, the position of police stations and police posts was as follows.—

Police Stations	Police Posts
1. City Sonipat	1. Old City Sonipat
2. Sadar Sonipat	2. Model Town Sonipat
3. Kharkhoda	3. Gohana Road, Sonipat
4. Rai	4. Sikka Colony, Sonipat
5. Gohana	5. City Ganaur
6. Baroda	6. Geeta Bhawan, Sonipat
7. Ganaur	7. P.P. Mohana
	8. Piao Maniari
	9. Mimarpur
	10. Murthal
	11. Jatheri
	12. Sector-14, Sonipat
	13. City Gohana.

The district police is controlled by the Superintendent of Police. As on March 31, 1989, he was assisted by an Additional Superintendent of Police, 2 Deputy Superintendents of Police, 4 Inspectors, 25 Sub-Inspectors, 38 Assistant Sub-Inspectors, 116 Head Constables and 662 Constables. As on March 31, 1989, there were 7 police stations and 13 police posts.

Civil Police.—The civil police is utilized for duty at the police station. During 1988-89, there were 7 police stations and 13 police posts. Each is under the charge of a Police Officer, known as the Station House Officer, assisted by other staff. It is his duty to maintain peace in the circle as well as to investigate offences occurring within his jurisdiction.

Haryana Armed Police.—The Provincial Additional Police was rechristened as the Provincial Armed Police on December, 15, 1947 and thereafter it was designated as the Punjab Armed Police on April 11, 1961. Since November, 1966, it has been called the Haryana Armed Police. It is presently deployed on protection of important vulnerable points.

Railway Police.—It is not allotted to any district in particular but is a part of a separate state organisation. The circles of the railway police are formed according to sections of the railway lines and they are connected with the prevention, detection and control of crimes in railway trains and within the railway premises. There is a Government railway police outpost at Sonipat.

Police Radio Organisation. For receiving and transmitting messages, wireless sets have been provided at all police stations. This system plays an important role in maintenance of law and order.

Home Guards.—This is a national service organization evolved to meet miscellaneous needs of the civil population as they arise.

The trainees are trained in drill with and without arms, fire fighting, first-aid, warden duties, maintaining essential services and in helping the civil authorities. They are trained in using weapons, taking cover, judging distance, driving boating, patrolling and performing general duties.

Home Guards discharged their duties efficiently on various occasions particularly at the time of floods, Chinese Aggression in 1962 and Pakistani Aggression.

Village Police.—For over a century the police activities at village level were performed by *Zaildars*, *Sufedposhes*, *Chowkidars* and *Inamdars*. But for the institution of Chowkidari, all other institutions were abolished from time to time. The chowkidars report births and deaths in a thana fortnightly, give information of crimes, keep surveillance over the bad characters residing in the village and report their movements. Besides attending to watch and ward duties, they render general assistance to officers on tour.

Mention may also be made of *thikar chowkidars* who are selected by lot from among the residents of the village; those unwilling to serve are obliged to pay the cost of a substitute. These *chowkidars* are detailed only during emergencies. With the advent of decentralization, this type of system has become very weak and people are averse to *thikri pehra*. The police has to persuade them to implement this system in villages where crime is rampant.

Prosecution Staff.—The prosecution Staff has been placed under the overall charge of the Director of Prosecution, Haryana, Chandigarh since April, 1, 1974. A District Attorney looks after the prosecution work in the district. He is assisted by the other staff.

JAIL

District Jail, Sonipat.—The judicial lock-up, Sonipat was converted into subsidiary jail for the detention of undertrials with effect from 5th January, 1970. It was upgraded to district jail on September 15, 1986. It is situated near the old courts. The Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Sonipat holds part time charge of the jail. The other staff consists of one Superintendent jail, one Deputy Superintendent Jail and Warder Staff for the security of jail. There is accommodation for 103 under-trials in the new Jail. Only undertrial prisoners are kept here. Though there is a provision to keep the convicts for a period of 3 months here; on conviction they are generally sent to District Jail, Rohtak.

There is no special class in this sub-jail. If the court awards a prisoner any special class, he is immediately transferred to Rohtak. The daily average number of the undertrials in the jail during 1988-89 was 48 only.

There is no juvenile ward in the jail. In the absence of a female ward, the women undertrials are not confined here. They are shifted to Rohtak Jail.

The jail is electrified and airy. There is a facility of newspapers for the undertrials. A part-time doctor attends the inmates.

Measures are taken for the moral, social, mental uplift and physical development of the prisoners so as to effect a change in their attitude and criminal tendencies.

JUSTICE

During 1912, the judicial work of the Delhi district was supervised by the Divisional and Sessions Judge of the Delhi civil division. The District Magistrate was responsible for the administration of criminal justice, being Chief Magistrate and supervisor of the Police so far as their duties related to crime. Besides, there were First Class, Second Class and Third Class Magistrates.

The civil judiciary was under the control of the District Judge whose principal assistants were Additional District Judge, a Sub-Judge and the Judge of Small cause court; the latter was assisted by a Registrar. The minor courts consisted of *Munsiffs* who were mostly revenue officers in an allomorphic disguise.

The Gohana tahsil was the part of Rohtak district. The normal strength of the district staff consisted of one Deputy Commissioner and three Extra Assistant Commissioners, who were District Judge, Treasury Officer and Revenue Assistant respectively. The Deputy Commissioner was invested with enhanced powers under section 30, Criminal Procedure Code and the Extra Assistant Commissioners, each of whom was incharge of one or more police stations, had the ordinary powers of First Class Magistrates.

The District Judge had under him two *Munsiffs* and a temporary Sub-Judge at a time. The Extra Assistant Commissioners had the powers of a *Munsiff*. The district was then (1910) in the Judicial division of Hisar.

In Gohana tahsil (there was a Tahsildar with second class and a Naib Tahsildar with third class) criminal powers. There was also an Honorary Magistrate with third class powers at Gohana.

On the revenue side the Naib-Tahsildars and Tahsildars had the powers of Assistant Collectors of the Second grade and the Revenue Assistant of the first grade. All were subordinate to the Deputy Commissioner as Collector, and again to the Commissioner and Financial Commissioner. The District Judge and Treasury Officer did no revenue work but had in common with the Revenue Assistant the powers of a Collector under the Income Tax Act.

Administration of Justice after Independence

Before March 1, 1955, for judicial administration, the areas of present Sonipat district forming part of Rohtak district were tagged to Karnal district. As such only one District and sessions Judge was appointed for the two districts. Finding this arrangement cumbersome for lawyers and litigants, the Bar represented against it and as a result, a separate District and Sessions Judge was posted at Rohtak.

On the civil side the administration of Justice in the then Sonipat district was handled by the District and Sessions Judge, Rohtak. Only a Sub-Judge was posted at Sonipat. The Judges of civil courts tried cases of civil nature according to the powers with which each Sub-Judge had been vested. Since October 2, 1964, all the Sub-Judges were invested with the powers of Judicial Magistrate Ist Class.

Criminal Courts.—Prior to the separation of the judiciary from the executive (October 2, 1964), the organization of criminal justice was controlled by the District Magistrate, Rohtak who was assisted in the areas of Sonipat district by Sub-Divisional Magistrate and Resident Magistrate Ist Class at Sonipat and Resident Magistrate Ist Class at Gohana.

The District Magistrate and Magistrates dealt with all types of crime cases. The criminals were produced before the Magistrate Ist Class in whose jurisdiction the crime was committed. The jurisdiction of the Magistrate was delimited in the district by the District Magistrate and in his absence or with his approval, by the Additional District Magistrate. The jurisdiction of the Magistrate Ist Class usually extended to 3 to 4 police stations. The District Magistrate had executive control over the Magistrates whereas the District and Sessions Judge exercised judicial control as he heard appeals against their Orders in judicial cases.

After the separation of judiciary from the executive, the administration of both civil and criminal justice was transferred to the District and Sessions Judge, Rohtak. He was assisted in this area by 2 Judicial Magistrates posted at Sonipat and 1 Judicial Magistrate posted at Gohana. There was also a Sub-Judge at Sonipat. They dealt with criminal and civil work. Thereafter the Executive Magistrates did only those criminal cases which related to prevention of breach of peace.

On March 31, 1983, Sonipat district was a part of Sessions Division, Rohtak. The Sonipat Sessions Division was created in June, 1983. The following courts were functioning in the district as on March 31, 1989:—

1. Court of District and Sessions Judge, Sonipat.
2. Court of Ist Addl. District & Sessions Judge, Sonipat;
3. Court of IInd Addl. District & Sessions, Judge, Sonipat;
4. Court of IIIrd Addl. District & Sessions Judge, Sonipat.
5. Court of Senior Sub-Judge, Sonipat;
6. Court of Chief Judicial Magistrate, Sonipat;
7. Court of Addl. Senior Sub-Judge, Sonipat;
8. Court of Sub-Judge-cum-Judicial Magistrate 1st Class, Sonipat;
9. Court of Judicial Magistrate 1st Class-cum-Sub-Judge, Sonipat;
10. Court of Sub-Divisional Judicial Magistrate-cum-Sub-Judge 1st Class, Gohana.

After the passage of Punjab Gram Panchayat Act, 1952, some of the functions of the civil and criminal and revenue courts were made over to the panchayats. Where cases lie in the exclusive jurisdiction of the Panchayats, their cognizance by other courts is barred. The Chief Judicial Magistrate is empowered to revise their decisions and he can in turn delegate those powers to *illqa* Magistrate. The panchayats being elected bodies, however do not generally consist of persons with an adequate knowledge of law. The usual formalities of procedures are thus conspicuous by their absence in the trial cases by a panchayat.

Revenue Courts:—The Deputy Commissioner, by virtue of his office, exercises the powers of Collector under the various statutes and is the highest revenue judicial authority in the district. The cases regarding the appointment of *lambardars* are decided by him in the exercise of original jurisdiction and an appeal from and revision of his orders lies to the Commissioner of the Division. The Government has also invested the Sub-Divisional Officer (Civil) with the powers of Collector under specific laws. The Assistant and Extra Assistant

Commissioners, on first appointment to the service are *ex-officio* Assistant Collectors Grade-II but these officers after having passed the departmental examination in Civil Law and Higher Standard Examination in Revenue Law, work as Assistant Collectors of the 1st Grade by virtue of their office. However, the Tahsildars assume powers of an Assistant Collector of the First Grade in particular cases only. The Tahsildars and Naib-Tahsildars also exercise the powers of Assistant Collector (II Grade) under various Acts.

Bar Associations

The bar associations maintain a library and an office. Their function is to help litigants to get justice and to maintain the dignity of the legal profession.

There are two bar associations one each at Sonipat and Gohana. The particulars about these associations are given below:—

Name	Year of Establishment	Membership as on March 31, 1989
Bar Association, Sonipat	.. 1912	206
Bar Association, Gohana	.. 1936	57

CHAPTER XIII

OTHER DEPARTMENTS

The position of organisational set-up, staff and functions of the departments not mentioned in other chapters, is briefly given below:—

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

There are three wings of Public Works Department in the district. The description of organisational set-up and functions of all wings, (i) Buildings and Roads, (ii) Public Health, and (iii) Irrigation is given below:—

Buildings and Roads

Provincial Division, Sonipat.—This division, headed by an Executive Engineer, is responsible for maintenance/Construction of other categories of roads (i.e. State highways, district major roads and other roads etc.) and also maintenance/construction of all Government buildings except some important buildings.

Estate Officer, Rai.—Estate Officer, Rai, is mainly responsible for maintenance and construction of buildings and roads at Moti Lal Nehru School of Sports, Rai (Sonipat).

Above said Division and Estate Officer are under the control of Superintending Engineer, P.W.D., B. & R., branch, Jind Circle.

Murthal Provincial Division (National Highway Works), Sonipat.—The division, headed by an Executive Engineer, is responsible for the construction of Murthal Engineering College at Murthal. It has four Murthal sub-divisions (from I to IV) and one Horticulture sub-division. Maintenance and construction of the buildings and internal road works of the said College are looked after by these divisions and horticulture works are looked after by the horticulture sub-division.

World Bank Aid Project Division, National Highways Works at Sonipat.—This division under an Executive Engineer is responsible for maintenance of national high way No. 1 (Grand Trunk Road or Sher Shah Suri Marg). This division has provincial sub-division No. III, Sonipat for maintenance of G.T. Road from 29. 295 km to 50 km. The works pertaining to District boundary are under the provincial sub-division No. IV. at Sonipat. Provincial sub-division No. II, Sonipat undertakes the construction of high level bridges over river Yamuna near village Niwara (U.P.) from Haryana side in this district.

Above Divisions are under control of Superintending Engineer, national highway circle at Karnal.

World Bank Division at Murthal (Sonipat).—This division headed by an Executive Engineer is responsible for widening, strengthening and construction of dual carriage of national highway no. I (Grand Trunk road or Sher-Shah-Suri Marg.) from Km. 50 towards district boundary and also beyond district boundary. This Division has national highway sub-division, Sonipat from Km. 50 to 60 Km., world bank sub-division, Murthal from Km. 60 to district Boundary and onwards. World bank sub-division No. I, Ganaur attends to above said work beyond the Sonipat district Boundary. World bank sub-division No. II, Ganaur is the incharge of laboratory as well as responsible for providing r.c.c. parts and burbs and channels of above said works only.

This division is under the control of Superintending Engineer, world bank circle No. I at Chandigarh.

Electrical Works.—Electrical work of maintenance and construction of all Government buildings is under two electrical sub-division at Sonipat. It is looked after by Electrical Engineer, electrical division, Karnal and controlled by Superintending Engineer, electrical circle at Karnal.

Mechanical Works.—Mechanical work maintenance and newly purchased equipments machineries in connection with buildings and roads works are looked by Executive Engineer, mechanical division, P.W.D., B. & R., Rohtak. Only one S.D.E. (mechanical) is at Sonipat for this purpose. It is under the control of Superintending Engineer mechanical circle at Karnal.

Material Testing.—There is one research laboratory at divisional level, where testing of all kinds of materials used in buildings and roads works is done. It is under control of Director-cum-Superintending Engineer, research Laboratory at Hissar.

Land Papers.—There is one land acquisition cell at District level, consisting of one Naib-Tehsildar, One Kanungo and 4 Patwaries who prepare the compensation papers under the guidance of land acquisition officer at Gurgaon.

At the State level, road works except national highway and major bridges is looked by Chief Engineer (Roads). Buildings works except Engineering College at Murthal is looked by Chief Engineer (buildings). The work relating to national highways, Engineering College and high level bridges over the Yamuna river is looked by Chief Engineer (national highways).

Over all Incharge of P.W.D., B. & R. is the Engineer-in-Chief.

(ii) Public Health Branch

The public health works in the Sonipat district are under the charge of Superintending Engineer, Public Health Circle, Sonipat. The work of Public

health in the district is looked after by public health division I, Sonipat and public health division II, Sonipat. The administrative control at the State level is with Engineer-in-Chief, P.W.D., Public Health, Haryana, Chandigarh. At the district-level the administration of public health branch lies with the Superintending Engineer, Public Health Circle, Sonipat. During 1988-99, he was assisted by three Executive Engineers and nine Sub-Divisional Engineers (Public Health).

Public Health Division I, Sonipat.—This division has been functioning since July, 1974. It was headed as on March 31, 1989 by an Executive Engineer. He was assisted by 4 Sub-Divisional Engineers at Sonipat. The division is responsible for providing drinking water, sewerage and store water drainage in rural and urban areas within its jurisdiction. It also carries out the execution of public health works. The towns of Sonipat, Gohana, Ganaur and Kharkhoda have been provided with partial water supply while only Sonipat and Gohana have skeleton sewerage facility.

Public Health Construction Division II, Sonipat.—This division, under the Executive Engineer, has been functioning since February, 1981. In 1989, he was assisted by 4 Sub-Divisional Engineers at Sonipat, two Sub-Divisional Engineers at Gohana, one Sub-Divisional Engineer at Kharkhoda and one at Sonipat. The division undertakes the execution of water supply in rural areas of Kailana, Rai, Rohat and Gohana. It is also responsible for providing water supply, sewerage and sanitation at Sports School, Rai.

Public Health Division, Sonipat (Ground water Investigation).—There was Executive Engineer, (GW1) as a head of this branch at district level as on March 31, 1989. He was assisted by two sub-Divisional Officers at Sonipat. This division is responsible for undertaking the under ground water investigation with the view to searching the water-pockets in the district.

(iii) Irrigation

The district is covered by irrigation from the western Jamuna Canal. The irrigation in Sonipat district is looked after by the Western Jamuna Canal, Delhi Division and Western Januna Canal, Rohtak Division. The drainage is looked after by the drainage division, Sonipat. The WJC, Delhi division falls under the WJC (feeder canal circle), Delhi, which is headed by a Superintending Engineer. The WJC Rohtak division falls under the WJC (West), Rohtak Circle under the charge of a Superintending Engineer. The drainage Division, Sonipat falls under the drainage circle, Karnal. The overall administrative control at the State level is exercised by the Engineer-in-Chief PWD, Irrigation, Haryana, Chandigarh.

WJC, Delhi Division.—The Delhi division under an Executive Engineer looks after the irrigation of Sonipat sub-division. In 1989, the division

had 4 sub-divisions; Yamuna sub-drainage sub-division, Delhi, Delhi sub-division, Delhi, Rajpura sub-division, Sonipat and Sonipat sub-division, Sonipat.

WJC (West) Rohtak Division.—The division is under the charge of an Executive Engineer. In 1989, it had 4 sub-divisions; Bhalout sub-division, Butana sub-division, Madina sub-division and construction sub-division, Rohtak. The division looks after the irrigation in Gohana sub-division.

Drainage Division, Sonipat.—The division is under the charge of an Executive Engineer. This division was established at Sonipat during 1978. In 1989, it had 3 sub-divisions, drainage sub-division, Gohana, drainage sub-division I, Sonipat and drainage sub-division II, Sonipat.

The division is responsible for protection of the flood embankment along the 48 kilometres of Jamuna flowing through the district. It is also responsible for the drainage in the district. The division raised and strengthened the flood embankment along the Jamuna during 1979—81. Ring bunds were also constructed around 43 flood prone villages.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

The district treasury, Sonipat is under the control of Treasury Officer, Sonipat. He is assisted by two Assistant Treasury Officers, one for each sub-treasuries at Gohana and Ganaur. A sub-treasury was opened at Kharkhoda in May, 1983, with an Assistant Treasury Officer as incharge. The State Bank of India Kharkhoda conducts the cash business on behalf of the sub-treasury. The Treasuries and sub-treasuries function under the overall administrative control of Finance Department. Cash transactions of the Sonipat treasury are conducted through the State Bank of India, Sonipat, while the transactions of sub-treasury, Gohana, are made through State Bank of Patiala, Gohana. and sub-treasury of Ganaur are made through Punjab National Bank, Ganaur.

The two-fold functions of the Treasury Officer comprise (i) receipt of revenue including sale of stamps on behalf of the Central and State governments, (ii) disbursement of bills of pay and allowances of government employees, bill of contingencies, grant-in-aid and pensions (including military pensions), and (iii) maintenance of accounts pertaining to above items.

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

The Economic and Statistical Organisation under the administrative control of the Planning Department, Haryana, Chandigarh, is represented

in the district by the District Statistical Officer. The District Statistical Office was set up in the Sonipat district in November, 1973. The functions of District Statistical Officer are centred in co-ordinating the statistical activities of the different departments at the district level. He collects, compiles, analyses and maintains statistics relating to various socio-economic aspects of the district. He checks and scrutinizes the periodical progress reports prepared by the Block Development and Panchayat Officer and by various other district officers. He prepares District Statistical Abstract containing comprehensive data on various socio-economic aspects. He also prepares a Municipal Year Book giving detailed statistical information regarding towns. He conducts various socio-economic surveys in the district assigned by the Economic and Statistical Adviser to Government, Haryana. He also renders technical guidance to the reporting agencies in collecting and compiling reliable statistics and to the other departments in conducting surveys and enquiries.

He collects data relating to weekly and bi-weekly prices of commodities from centre at Sonipat for preparing the consumer price index of the Sonipat district. His duties include maintenance of record about the arrival of essential commodities in different mandis/markets, their disposal, checking of seasons and crop reports, conducting of annual census of government employees, etc. The District Statistical Officer co-ordinates statistical activities of various departments in the district and also renders them technical guidance regarding the collection and compilation of statistics. He also collects data from different offices/institutions for state income estimates, capital formation, etc.

The District Statistical Officer has been given the additional charge of the District Planning Officer. He formulates district development plans under the guidance and directions of the District Planning Advisory Board, District Planning Committee and District Executive Councils which function under the supervision of the Deputy Commissioner.

PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

This department is represented in the district by the District Public Relations Officer, Sonipat who is assisted by one Assistant Public Relations Officer at Gohana, one District Publicity Organizer of Sonipat, 3 Male Publicity Assistants (one at Gohana and two at Sonipat), one Lady Field Publicity Assistant at Sonipat, one technical Assistant (Sound) at Sonipat, One Cinema operator at Sonipat, four bhajan parties (one each at Sonipat, Ganaur, Kharkhoda and Gohana), one drama party, 7 Block Publicity Workers (one each in all the development blocks), two Radio Mechanics (one each at Sonipat and Gohana) and one T.V. technician at Sonipat. He maintains information centre at Sonipat. The administrative control of the department at the state level lies with the Director, Public Relations, Haryana, Chandigarh.

The District Public Relations Officer maintains constant liaison with the press and the public in general for putting across the Government point of view. He undertakes publicity campaigns through meetings, cinema shows, drama performances and personal contacts with a view to informing and educating the people about various programmes and policies formulated by the Government and the development made in different fields. He also keeps the Government informed of public reaction to its plans and policies and conveys public grievances to the district and State authorities. He is in charge of the community listening and T.V. schemes under which 256 radio sets and 161 television sets were allotted to panchayats and schools as on March 31, 1989. The details are as under:—

Block	Panchayats	T.V. sets allotted
1. Sonipat	63	34
2. Gohana	36	31
3. Ganaur	67	29
4. Kharkhoda	43	22
5. Kathura	21	13
6. Mundlana	35	9
7. Rai	53	33

The mechanics of the department are responsible for the maintenance of these radio sets and televisions. Besides staging drama on rural reconstruction, films of rural interest are also shown. In addition, programmes are organised to highlight the country's cultural heritage.

DEPARTMENT OF WELFARE OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND BACKWARD CLASSES

This department is represented in the district by the District Welfare Officer for Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes, who is assisted by three Tahsil Welfare Officers (one in each tahsil) and Female Social Workers with Lady Attendants working in the Community Centres. The administrative control at the state level lies with the Director, Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes, Haryana, Chandigarh.

The main functions of District Welfare Officer are to create public opinion against untouchability and to adopt measures for the welfare and uplift of

Scheduled Castes, Vimukhat Jatis and other Backward Classes. He also implements the schemes formulated by Government for their welfare and looks after the interest of these people against victimisation, ejection, etc. He provides legal assistance and guidance for getting employment in industrial establishments.

In 1988-89, there were two welfare community centres at Nāthupur, (Tahsil Sonipat) and Chirana village (Tahsil Gohana). The Male Social Workers who were working in community centres have been adjusted in the offices of Tahsil Welfare Officers.

The Lady Social Workers hold classes in the *Balwadis* and arrange *satsangs* in the community centres. They deliver lectures to Harijan women on the care of babies, general cleanliness, etc. They visit Harijan *bastis* and create public opinion among the residents that they should observe no distinction even among themselves and other castes. Sewing, cutting and embroidery are taught in the community centres.

The Lady Attendants are trained *dais* and provide maternity aid to the expectant mothers. Till March 31, 1989, 145 widows/girls were trained and each of them was given a sewing machine to earn her living.

HARYANA STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD

The Board in the district is represented by two operation divisions, one located at Sonipat named city division Sonipat (created in 1968) and the second named sub-urban division Fazilpur (created in 1982). Each division is under the charge of an Executive Engineer.

The Executive Engineer city division, Sonipat is assisted by four Sub-Divisional Officers, viz., (i) Sub-Divisional Officer op. sub-division, Kundli, (ii) Sub-Divisional Officer, industrial area sub-division, Sonipat, (iii) Sub-Divisional Officer, City sub-division, Sonipat and (iv) Sub-Divisional Officer, model town sub-division, Sonipat. In addition to this, there is a Sub-Station Engineer at 132 K.V. sub-division, Fazilpur under this division.

The Executive Engineer, Sub-urban division, Fazilpur (Sonipat) is assisted by four Sub-Divisional Officers, viz. (i) operation sub-division, Murthal (Stationed at Sonipat), (ii) operation sub-division Kharkhoda, (iii) operation sub-division Ganaur and (iv) Sub-Divisional Engineer at 132 K.V. Sub-Station, Ganaur. Besides, there are two sub-offices, one at Farmana and the other at Bhatgaon.

In addition to the above, there are two operation sub-divisions, i.e. Gohana and Kathura. These sub-divisions are under the charge of Executive Engineer, sub-urban division, Rohtak and overall charge of Superintending Engineer Operation Circle, Rohtak. The divisions i.e. city division,

Sonipat and sub-urban division, Sonipat (Fazilpur) are under the charge of Superintending Engineer Operation Circle, H.S.E.B., Delhi. At the State level Chief Engineer Operation, H.S.E.B. Chandigarh has the overall control.

The operation divisions look after the maintenance of transmission and distribution of power to rural and urban areas of Sonipat and Gohana and Ganaur tahsils and Kharkhoda Sub-tahsil under their respective jurisdictions and also release new connections for industrial agriculture and domestic purposes.

In March, 1969, electricity was available in about 91 villages but by November, 1970, all the villages of the district were electrified. By March, 1976, 5,189 tubewells were provided with electric connections and by March, 1978, the number of tubewells energised rose to 6,210. By March, 1983, the tubewell connections further rose to 10,187 and the area under irrigation rose to 1,884.86 square kilometers. As on March 31, 1989, 13,963 tubewells connections were given in the district.

CO-OPERATIVE DEPARTMENT

This department is represented in the district by two Assistant Registrars, Co-operative Societies. One is posted at Sonipat and has jurisdiction over two tahsils, Sonipat and Ganaur while the second is posted at Gohana for Gohana tahsil. The post of Assistant Registrar, Sonipat, was created during 1968-69. Both the Assistant Registrars function under the administrative control of Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Haryana, Chandigarh, through the Deputy Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Karnal. The Assistant Registrar posted at Sonipat is assisted by 4 General Line Inspectors, two Milk Supply Inspectors, 3 Special Line Inspectors (Industrial, Marketing and Farming-Liquidation) and 28 Sub-Inspectors. The Assistant Registrar at Gohana is assisted by 3 General Line Inspectors, two Milk-Supply Inspectors, one Special Line Inspector (Industrial) and 18 Sub-Inspectors.

Both the Assistant Registrars are responsible for the healthy growth and development of the weaker sections through the Co-operative movement. They ensure that agriculturists receive adequate and timely supply of short, medium and long term credit through Central Co-operative banks, land development banks and primary and credit and service societies.

They also arrange through co-operative marketing societies the supply of chemical fertilizers, improved seeds, insecticides and pesticides. The produce is routed through the marketing societies for the benefit of agriculturists. Besides, consumer goods like sugar, foodgrains, kerosene, cloth are also made available through co-operative consumer stores in urban areas and primary co-operative credit and service societies in rural areas. There are also retail outlets of the Confed in the rural areas.

The Industrial Inspector functions for Industrial Co-operative Societies for arrangement of raw material and sale of finished goods. The sugar mill crushes sugar cane for making sugar and supplies sugar cane seed to the farmers. The main function of the labour co-operatives is to provide work to the labourers, workers and to improve their economic conditions.

DEPARTMENT OF TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING

The work relating to town and country planning in the district is looked after by the District Town Planner, Sonipat. The post of District Town Planner, Sonipat was created in June, 1968. The development of urban estates is managed by Estate Officer, Haryana Urban Development Authority, Rohtak. The work of colonization relating to setting up of mandi townships is managed directly from the headquarters, except the physical planning, i.e. preparation of master plans and detailed layout plans which are dealt by this department. All these three departments are headed by one person with different designations, viz. Director, Town and Country Planning, Chief Administrator, Haryana Urban Development Authority and Director-cum-Special Land Acquisition Collector of the Department of Colonization.

The objective of District Town Planner is to regulate the urban development of towns and areas surrounding them. In Sonipat district-outside municipal limits the vulnerable area between Sonipat and Delhi has been declared as controlled area, to regulate the corridor development along the Sher Shah Suri Marg (national highway No. 1) and prepare the development plan under the Punjab Scheduled Roads and Controlled Area (Restriction of Unregulated Development) Act, 1963. This department has prepared the development plan for the controlled area around Sonipat, Ganaur and Gohana.

Under the development plan, Haryana State Industries Development Corporation has set up an industrial estate near Murthal on an area of 100 hectares. Besides, another industrial estate over an area of 70 acres has been set up at Kundli, while an area of 760 acres on the national highway is being developed for industrial and residential purpose.

The Haryana Urban Development Authority set up a residential urban estate, Sector-14 at Sonipat, on 80 hectares of land in 1978-79. All the plots have been allotted. The town of Sonipat is likely to have a population of 3 lakh by 2001 and to accommodate this, the department has planned the development of 1,580 hectares for residential purpose.

An industrial estate of 975 hectares is also being planned for Sonipat. The Town Planning Department also renders technical advice for planned development to Rural Development Board, Haryana Urban Development Authority and municipal committees.

FOOD AND SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT

The department is represented by the District Food and Supplies Controller. In 1989, he was assisted by one District Food and Supplies Officer, 4 Assistant Food and Supplies Officers, 35 Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors. In March, 1989, no check posts/barriers had been set up by the Department in the district to prevent smuggling of foodgrains to other states. The Controller functions under the administrative control of the Director of Food and Supplies, Haryana, Chandigarh. He is also responsible for procurement, release and storage of foodgrains, equitable distribution of sugar, Kerosene, cement, coal/coke, vegetable oil and other essential commodities at controlled prices. In March, 1989, the district had 339 fair price shops (79 in urban and 260 in rural areas).



CHAPTER XIV

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

HISTORY OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The district has many large villages and if the size of the villages be any index to the existence of organised communal living, it may be assumed that some form of local government existed in the area from quite early times. This assumption would be in line with the freedom allowed by all organized territorial authorities to villages in the past to administer their own affairs. This was done through panchayats which they had evolved in the course of centuries. But information about the evolution of local government in the district prior to the advent of the British rule is inadequate.

The first real step towards the introduction of municipal government was, however, taken when Gohana and Sonipat municipalities were constituted in 1885 under the Punjab Municipal Act, 1884. In the subsequent year, the municipality at Kharkhoda was constituted. The Punjab Municipal Act, passed in 1891, provided a simple form of municipal administration in notified areas where it was expedient to constitute regular municipalities. Accordingly, notified areas were formed at Butana and Mundana. Kharkhoda was converted into a notified area under this Act. Amendments to this Act followed in 1896, 1900, 1905 and it was finally replaced by the Punjab Municipal Act III of 1911.

Due to the inefficiency of municipal committees, the notified areas were abolished. Gohana municipality was singled out for censure in 1890. There were many instances of party-feelings in the meetings of municipal committees. Consequently, local bodies were abolished on 1st March, 1902.

In 1921, the Punjab Small Towns Act, 1921 came into force. Under this Act, Gohana was declared a small town committee in 1953. The Act was repealed by the Punjab Municipal (Second Amendment) Act, 1954 and it converted all Small Town Committees into class III municipal committees in the State. Consequently, Gohana Small Town Committee was converted into Class III municipality.

The Punjab Municipal Act, 1911 was replaced by the Haryana Municipal Act, 1973 on July 20, 1973. The new Act does not provide for Class III municipal committees. A fresh classification of municipal committees has been made on the basis of income and population.

With the enforcement of the Haryana Municipal Act, 1973, all the municipal committees were superseded in Haryana and official administrators

were appointed to look after the affairs of the local bodies. In Sonipat district administrators were replaced by the elected presidents on August 30, 1987.

The main duties of the municipalities are to arrange for prevention and extinction of fire, supply of water for drinking and other purposes, control of dangerous or offensive trades and to look after public health and scavenging of the town. The municipalities also provide street lights and make arrangements for playgrounds, public parks, medical aid, public libraries, etc.

Octroi is the main source of income but other sources include tax on houses and lands, vehicles and animals, professions, tolltax on roads and ferries, water rates, show tax, licence fee, rent on municipal property, etc. The detailed lists of sources of income and items of expenditure of municipalities are given in the Table XVI of Appendix.

On March 31, 1989, there were 4 local bodies (Sonipat, Ganaur, Gohana and Kharkhoda). The income and expenditure of all the municipalities in the district during 1986-87 to 1988-89 are as under :—

	Year		
	1986-87	1987-88	1988-89
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Income	48,966	1,83,06,965	73,90,013
Expenditure	21,276	12,91,33,282	7,32,79,172

SONIPAT MUNICIPALITY

The municipality was constituted in 1885. By Punjab Government Notification No. 819, dated 30th November, 1886, the proportion of appointed and elected members was fixed at 3 and 6 respectively¹.

Mr. George Smith once remarked that Sonipat was a difficult place for a Tahsildar to deal with as there were factional differences between Hindus and Muslims. Colonel Massy in July, 1894, also alluded to the strong local factions which required repressing. He had on one occasion refused to allow the re-election of a particular individual whom he considered to be unfit to be a municipal member.

1. *Administrative Dictionary of Delhi*, 1906, p. 168.

The position of the municipality changed after the attainment of Independence.

The municipal committee was superseded in 1973 and an official administrator looked after the affairs up to August 30, 1987. Since then elected President has been looking after the affairs of the municipality.

The piped water supply based on percolation wells was provided in 1953-54. Most of the streets are well paved and these are provided with surface drains. By the end of 1966, the underground sewerage was provided in the model town only. Now it has been installed in other approved parts of the town. The streets are well-lighted. The refuse is removed to refuse depots.

The Chief Sanitary Inspector is assisted by one Sanitary Inspector and other members of conservancy staff. The public parks and a municipal library are maintained by the municipality. It serves a population of 1,09,369 as per 1981 census.

As per 1981 Census, the Municipality maintains 49.0 kilometres of metalled and 2.0 unmetalled roads. There were 2,295 road lighting points. There were 40,158 electric connections (domestic 33,758, industrial 1,691 and Commercial 2,295).

The income and expenditure of the municipality during 1986-87 to 1988-89 are as under :—

Year	Income	Expenditure
	(Rs.)	(Rs.)
1986-87	14,054	15,105
1987-88	1,29,77,622	12,27,34,680
1988-89	N.A.	N.A.

GOHANA MUNICIPALITY

This municipal committee was constituted in 1885, under the provision of Small Town Act. It was declared as a small town committee in the year 1953, but later on converted into a 2nd class municipal committee in the year 1955. Elections to this municipal committee were held in 1962 and 1968. On 23rd July, 1973, it was superseded with the enforcement of the Haryana Municipal Act, 1973 and an administrator was appointed by the State Government. The affairs of the municipal committee were looked after by an officer

of Class-II status upto August 30, 1987. It is 'B' class municipality. An elected president was incharge of the municipality as on March 31, 1989.

For providing drinking water, the municipality installed a piped water supply based on tubewell system during the year 1971-72. It amounted to Rs. 37 lakh up to the end of March, 1989. In 1988-89, there were 65 public stand posts and 2,500 domestic water connections including 70 commercial connections in the town.

Gohana too is mostly served by surfaced drains. However, the underground sewerage has also been provided in the main road areas of the town; this scheme cost Rs. 20 lakh. At present, the municipality has arranged a temporary disposal scheme to use sullage water for irrigating its agricultural lands.

Electricity was first introduced in the town in 1956. Before its introduction, the town was illuminated with kerosene lamps for street lighting. In 1988-89, there were 585 electric connections (240 bulbs and 345 fluorescent tubes) for street light. There were 5,200 domestic connections as on March 31, 1989.

The municipality is developing a big park on 2 acre land situated on Gohana-Jind road, besides an old park in front of office of the Block Samiti, Gohana. One fountain has also been constructed by the municipality on Rohtak-Panipat road.

The conservancy staff consists of one Sanitary Inspector, 2 Sanitary Jamadars, one Vaccinator and 70 Safai Karamcharis. The whole of rubbish is collected in rubbish depot and from there carried by a tractor trolley to dumping grounds where the compost is prepared. Each Safai Karmchari has been provided with wheel barrows and other equipments being used for removal of night soil. The municipality has one tractor with three trolleys and 50 wheel barrows.

The municipality maintained 7 k.m. of metalled roads, 3.10 k.m. unmetalled roads. So far no road in this town has been taken over by P.W.D. (B&R). However, market committee has been taken over two roads, viz. Government High School Chowk to Subzi Mandi and Railway station to Jind road near railway colony for metalling and maintenancce. Taking over of the Baroda road is under active consideration with the P.W.D.(B&R).

Before provincialization of schools in 1957, the municipality used to maintain two primary schools and one middle school for girls. It is now maintaining one library-cum-reading room with a part time librarian, within the premises of municipal office.

The main sources of the income to this municipality include octroi, house tax, rent from municipal shops and agricultural lands with little income from tehbazari, licence fees, show tax and toll-tax, etc. The income and expenditure of the municipality from 1983-84 to 1988-89 are given below :—

Year	Income (Rs.)	Expenditure(Rs.)
1983-84	28,70,807	33,81,408
1984-85	30,54,888	32,18,256
1985-86	32,48,688	37,08,098
1986-87	34,86,297	33,34,018
1987-88	36,04,305	37,23,124
1988-89	53,47,962	49,37,054

The municipality is leasing out its 92 shops constructed under the Revenue Earning Scheme; 35 shops are situated on the tahsil road, 18 shops near municipal office and rest of the 39 shops in different parts of the city. The Committee planned for construction of a block of 34 shops including 18 old shops to develop a municipal market complex. A rickshaw stand has been constructed out side the bus Stand at a cost of Rs. 5,000.

GANAUR MUNICIPALITY

The municipality was formed on 24th December, 1968 with 14 nominated members. It was superseded on December 23, 1974 with the enforcement of the Haryana Municipal Act, 1973. The affairs of the municipality were looked after by an official administrator upto August 30, 1987. It is a 'C' class municipality. An elected president was the incharge of the committee as on March, 31, 1989.

For providing drinking water, the municipality constructed a water-works during 1978-79 while it provided a limited water-supply of 25 gallons per head. Besides, there are three tubewells. During 1988-89, there were 100 public stand posts and 1,007 private water connections in the town. The electric light points were introduced in 1971. During 1988-89, there were 240 electric bulbs, 1 mercury bulb and 186 fluorescent tubes. There is only one library with a stock of 2,144 books.

The town is mostly served by surface drains. There is no sewerage scheme. The municipality arranged a temporary disposal of dirty water in ponds. The sanitary staff consists of one Sanitary Inspector and 40 *safai mazdoors*. The whole of the rubbish is collected in rubbish depots and from there it is carried by *jhotta* carts to the dumping grounds.

Chaudhary Lehri Singh Park is being maintained by the municipality.

The income and expenditure of the municipality during 1973-74 to 1988-89 are as under :—

Year	Income (Rs.)	Expenditure (Rs.)
1973-74	3,09,100	3,33,880
1974-75	3,30,479	3,37,505
1975-76	5,77,045	3,75,267
1976-77	3,66,206	5,05,055
1977-78	8,54,409	5,47,032
1978-79	3,98,244	7,59,814
1979-80	11,92,376	6,44,445
1980-81	5,16,583	8,49,156
1981-82	7,10,383	8,65,630
1982-83	11,79,426	10,99,813
1983-84	15,13,492	15,94,715
1984-85	13,10,462	13,74,176
1985-86	18,17,458	16,60,745
1986-87	30,33,100	16,91,795
1987-88	19,16,038	28,66,478
1988-89	24,78,029	26,05,667

KHARKHODA MUNICIPALITY

Municipality at Kharkhoda was formed on April 28, 1980. The affairs of the municipality were looked after by an official administrator upto February 26, 1989. It is 'C' class municipality. Its affairs as on March, 31, 1989 were under the control of elected president.

Piped water supply was enforced before its constitution as a municipality. Maintenance of water supply scheme is under P.W.D. (Public Health). There are 70 private connections and 50 public stand Posts. There is an arrangement of electric light. There were 85 bulbs and 15 tubes for street lighting on March 31, 1989.

The sanitary staff consists of one Sanitary Inspector and 18 sweepers.

The income and expenditure of the municipality are given below :—

Year	Income (Rs.)	Expenditure (Rs.)
1986-87	7,56,066	10,38,015
1987-88	2,96,388	4,16,060
1988-89	8,24,605	6,57,458

TOWN PLANNING

The work pertaining to town and country planning in the district is looked after by the District Town Planner. The post of District Town Planner was created in the district in June, 1968.

The objective of establishing the office of District Town Planner is, primarily to appreciate the urban development problems and to initiate the urban land-use planning proposals in order to regulate the urban development rationally within and without municipal limits¹.

The department, other than its own duties, renders technical help to the local bodies. The control of municipalities is primarily of regulatory type and these bodies control layout and construction of buildings on privately owned lands. Land acquisition, layout and development of new areas is normally envisaged through Improvement Trusts².

The model township was laid out in an industrial area at Sonipat.

Fire Service

The fire brigade in the district is stationed at Sonipat. It is financed by the municipality Sonipat. The Fire Station Officer, being in-charge of the fire brigade, functions under the technical guidance of Fire Officer, Haryana Chandigarh.

PANCHAYATI RAJ

In the past, the village communities were organized on traditional lines under *Bhalchara* Panchayats ; they were not established under any written

1. Details regarding town planning work may be seen in the Chapter-Other Departments.

2. The Improvement Trust in the district is defunct.

law. Lord Lawrence, the Collector of Delhi in 1844 admirably summed up this position :—

“In no part of the North-Western Provinces are the tenures so complete and well-recognized as here ; no districts in which this ancient village communities are in such excellent preservation or where the practice of our (British) civil courts has done so little harm. They are admirably adapted to resist the evil effects of bad seasons, epidemics and other evils incidental to this country. Bound together by the ties of blood Connection and above all common interest, like the bundle of sticks.....they are difficult to break. Drought may wither their crops, famine and disease may depopulate their houses, their fields may be deserted for a time. but when the storm blows over, if any survive, they are certain to return’.

The villages were broken into main sub-divisions called *panas*, and minor sub-divisions called *tholas*. Over each *pana* and *thola* were headmen. A single *pana*, if large, had several headmen or several *tholas*; if small, it was under a single headman. But at least as important as the headman, and forming with them the village council or panchayat were *tholadars*. These were a body of men unrecognized by Government, but exercising real power over the village. There was generally one representative for each family or a group of families among this body. There was no formal election, but a sort of tacit assent of his fellow-clansmen seemed to constitute a man's right to join the village council. There was always sure to be some person of a critical temperament in the council who perpetually demand that the account of the stewardship of those in authority be submitted to the voice of the whole village, and this kept a wholesome check on their proceedings. The council or panchayat settled everything of common interest for the village, the cultivation of any common lands, the rents to be paid for these, the realization of grazing and hearth fees, the exemption of certain persons from payment, the building and repair of village rest houses, supervising the system of special watchmen (*thicker*), cleaning of the village tanks, etc. Certain other matters by general custom also needed their special assent, such as the breaking up of jungle land, the cutting and selling of the trees of the common land, the grant of a revenue-free holding by the village and the like. The accounts of the village funds were submitted, though not regularly for the sanction of the whole body of proprietors. “Such were the village communities, a body often of heterogeneous composition but united, by close ties, self-supporting, vigorous and strong.”

By and by the panchayats lost much of their importance and significance. The real decay of these institutions, however, set in during the early

period of British rule. As a result of the highly centralized system of administration which the British introduced, the old quasi-democratic village organisation crumbled. However, the British Government did not take long to realize that as in the case of towns, local government must be resuscitated in some form or other if there was to be a revival of communal life. Accordingly, the work of reviving panchayats through legislation was taken up throughout India. The earliest legislation in the Punjab was the Punjab Panchayat Act, 1912, which was followed by the Act of 1921. These enactments sought restoration of some sort of traditional authority to the panchayats where such authority existed and reviving it in other villages where it did not exist. The panchayats were given administrative functions and powers and judicial powers, both criminal and civil. The Punjab Village Panchayat Act, 1939, consolidated and extended the law relating to panchayats and gave them some powers of taxation.

The necessity of village panchayats throughout the country was fully recognized after Independence and it was laid down in the Constitution as one of the directive principles of State policy. In pursuance of this, the Punjab Gram Panchayat Act, 1952 (Punjab Act IV of 1953) was passed. Under this Act the entire rural population of the district was covered by the panchayats.

The Punjab Gram Panchayats Act, 1952, with the subsequent amendments, and the Punjab Panchayat Samitis and Zila Parishads Act, 1961 are the legal base for the rural government, popularly called Panchayati Raj. At present the structure comprises two tiers; a panchayat at village level and a panchayat samiti at the block level. They do not constitute a hierarchy but have defined sphere of activity and independent sources of revenue. Previously, there used to be a Zila Parishad at the district level but this institution was abolished on June 13, 1973.

Panchayats

The panchayat is the basic unit of Panchayati Raj. Generally, there is one panchayat for each village but in few cases of small villages, there is a joint panchayat. Every panchayat has a minimum of five and maximum of nine panches. In 1982-83, there were 305 panchayats. The total membership of these panchayats was 2,116 including 398 Scheduled Castes *Panches* and 306 women *panches*. The details of total number of panchayats and villages (Block wise) as on March, 31, 1989. are as under :—

Name of the block.	No. of villages	No. of Panchayats
1. Sonipat	89	63
2. Rai	63	53
3. Kharkhoda	45	43
4. Gohana	35	35
5. Mundlana	34	35
6. Kathura	20	21
7. Ganaur	67	67
Total :	353	317

If no woman is elected as a *panch* of any sabha on the strength of her votes, the woman candidate securing the highest number of votes amongst the women candidates in that election is co-opted by the panchayat as a *panch* of that sabha and where no such woman candidate is available, the panchayat co-opts as a *panch* a woman member of the sabha who is qualified to be elected as a *panch*.

Every panchayat has one *panch* belonging to the Scheduled Castes if their population is 5 per cent or more of the population of the sabha area, provided that every panchayat with seven or more *panches* shall have two *panches* who are members of Scheduled Castes if the population of the Scheduled Castes is 10 per cent or more of the total population. If the required number of Scheduled Castes *panches* are not elected on the strength of their votes, then the Scheduled Castes candidate or candidates, as the case may be, securing the highest number of votes from amongst themselves are deemed to have been elected as the last *panch* or the last two *panches*. In case of requisite number of Scheduled Castes *panches* are not elected in the aforesaid manner, then the panchayat itself makes up the deficiency by nominating a duly qualified person or persons of such castes. Should, for any reason, the requisite number of Scheduled Castes *panches* not be elected or Co-opted in the above manner, Government has the authority to make good the deficiency by nomination.

In 1988-89, there were 317 panchayats in the district. The total membership of there panchayats was 2,425 including 457 Scheduled castes *panches*/Sarpanches and 319 lady *panches*/Sarpanches. There were 304 *panches*/Sarpanches belonging to Backward classes.

Judicial powers.—The panchayats are empowered to try certain minor offences like petty thefts, trespasses, encroachments on public property and public nuisance. They have also been given powers to try cases under various sections of the Indian Penal Code. They are empowered to impose fines. They are not bound by the provisions of the Indian Evidence Act, 1872, and as such lawyers are not permitted to appear in the proceedings before a panchayat. The Chief Judicial Magistrate hears appeals against the orders of the panchayats. He is empowered to transfer cases from one panchayat to another.

The panchayats try civil and revenue suits for recovery of movable property or the value of such property, for money or goods due on contract or the price thereof; for compensation for wrongfully taking or injuring moveable property and some suits under the Punjab Tenancy Act, 1887. They are under the control of the District Judge in civil suits and the Collector in revenue suits. The District Judge and the Collector are also appellate authorities, respectively.

The main functions of the panchayats are rural development, with particular reference to increase in agricultural production. It includes agriculture, Industries, animal husbandry, health and sanitation, forests, education, social education, village public works, sports and recreation. In fact, panchayats are to cover all spheres which concern the betterment of the village.

Sources of income of Panchayats.—The panchayats have been authorised to levy taxes, duties and fees. A part of miscellaneous items, the main sources of income are grants from Government, house-tax, income from *shamlat* land, voluntary contributions, fees and fines.

The year-wise details (1973-74 to 1988-89) regarding income and expenditure of the Panchayats are given in the Table XVII of Appendix.

Panchayat Samitis

In 1988-89, the entire district was divided into 7 blocks, each block having a Panchayat Samiti. It consists of 19 primary members; 16 members elected by *panches* and *sarpanches*; 2 members by cooperative societies, and 1 member by market committees. Every M.L.A. representing the constituency of which the block forms part, works on the Panchayat Samiti as an associate member. Two women members and 4 members belonging to the Scheduled Castes, if not elected otherwise, are co-opted to the Panchayat Samiti. The Sub-Divisional Officer (Civil) and Block Development and Panchayat Officer function as ex-officio members. The ex-officio and associate members do not have the right to vote.

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Panchayat Samiti are elected by the primary and co-opted members from amongst themselves and their term of office is 5 years. The Block Development and Panchayat Officer is the Executive Officer of the Panchayat Samiti.

The Panchayat Samiti is the most important structure in Panchayati Raj. Most of the work relating to development of villages is assigned to it. The Government entrusts to the Panchayat Samiti the responsibility for various matters in the field of agriculture, animal husbandry and fisheries, health and rural sanitation, communications, social education, cooperation and a number of other miscellaneous subjects. It is an agent of the Government for the formulation and execution of the community development programme as well as the disbursement of loans under these programmes.

The Panchayat Samiti has a vital role to play in building up a sound financial structure for Panchayati Raj. Every Panchayat Samiti has a 'Samiti Fund' which consists of the following items:—

- (1) The apportionment made to it by the Government out of the balance of the district fund standing to the credit of the District Board concerned;

- (2) local rate allotted to Panchayat Samiti;
- (3) proceeds of all taxes, cesses and fees;
- (4) funds allotted to Panchayat Samiti and income arising from all sources placed at its disposal;
- (5) rents and profits accruing from property vested in it or managed by the Panchayat Samiti;
- (6) all sums contributed to the fund by the Central Government or State Government or any local authority including the gram panchayat or any private person;
- (7) all sums received by the Panchayat Samiti in the discharge of functions exercised by it;
- (8) all sums paid by Government to Panchayat Samiti to meet expenses for the performance of agency functions;
- (9) grants made by Government for the implementation of community development programme, and
- (10) proceeds of all sources of income which the Government may place at the disposal of the Panchayat Samiti.

The year-wise details (1973-74 to 1988-89) regarding Panchayat Samities are given in the Table XVIII of Appendix.

CHAPTER XV

EDUCATION AND CULTURE

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Besides anglo-vernacular and vernacular schools, there were the institutes where indigenous education was imparted to the students¹.

In 1901, the following four kinds of indigenous schools existed in the Sonipat area:—

- (i) *Maktab*s where Urdu, Persian and Arabic were taught;
- (ii) *Pathshalas* (from path reading) where Nagri or shastri was taught;
- (iii) *Chatsals* (from *Chatta*, a school boy) where Hindi was taught; and
- (iv) Schools in which English was taught, together with other subjects like Hindi, Nagri, etc.

As already stated that Urdu and Persian were taught generally in the *Maktab*s. Boys usually came to *Maktab* early and stayed all day with one short break for food.

A *pandit* taught young Brahmans between the age-group of 15 to 20 in a local *mandir*. Such Schools were known as *pathshalas*. The pupils, called *vidyarthi*s lived by begging in the neighbourhood. Nothing but Sanskrit was taught.

Chatsals or Hindi-schools were generally held at the house of the *Padha*, if not at the chaupal or other public place. Such schools were mainly attended by *baniyas* as the instruction of the pupils was confined to accounts. The boys first learnt by rote the multiplication table (*pahara*) and then proceeded to learn the letters which they traced in the dust with a blunt reed. After this they were promoted to the use of the oriental substitute for a slate, i.e. the dust board. Discipline was somewhat strict. The teacher received payment in kind (gram, sugar, etc.) monthly and also a fee from each boy at every stage of this progression. In the large villages the teacher was a permanency, but there were also itinerant teachers who followed the local demand. The boys on acquiring sufficient knowledge took their places in the family firm.

There was an English school at Sonipat in 1911-12. At first Urdu was taught for some 3 years by which time the Student was ready to tackle English in very elementary form.

1. Leitner, G.W., *History of Indigenous Education in the Punjab, since Annexation* and in 1882, Part III p. I.

The following schools were maintained by the Local Board in the Sonipat tahsil in the beginning of 20th century:

Kind of school	Places at which situated
I	II
Boys' Primary (Vernacular)	.. 1. Aterna (C) 2. Barwasni (R) 3. Bhatgaon (C) 4. Bhagan (R) 5. Ganaur (D.B) 6. Garhi Brahmanan (R) 7. Halalpur (D.B') 8. Jakhauli (D.B) 9. Janti Kalan (R) 10. Juan (R) 11. Kheora (D.B) 12. Kundal (D) 13. Larsoli (C) 14. Mahra (R) 15. Mahlana (D.B) 16. Mohana (C) 17. Murthal (D.B) 18. Nahri (D.B) 19. Nangal Kalan (D.B) 20. Pinana (C) 21. Pugthala (C) 22. Purkhas (R) 23. Rath Dhana (D.B) 24. Rohat (C) 25. Tharu Ulhaipur ¹ (C)
Girls' Primary (Vernacular)	.. Sonipat (R)
Anglo-Vernacular (Middle School)	.. Sonipat

Only one school for girls was in the Sonipat area, which was controlled by the District Board.

The state of education prevailing in the Gohana area at the end of 19th century (1890) is indicated in the following extract

"Our system is possibly not suited to an agricultural people; if a little simple readings were taught with cypering in the native method, and a knowledge of accounts and the *patwaris*,

(1) M indicates for Municipality, D.B. for District Board, P for Private; R for Rented and C for Chaupal.

poets, they would be more ready to send their children to acquire some "scholaring". The Brahmans of Ahmadpur Majra have some local reputation as well-educated *pandits*. The people collect eagerly to hear passages of the *Ramyaṇa* or *Mahabharata* declaimed at the village rest house, and reward the reciter for his performance liberally; the women also gather on these occasions sitting by themselves in a separate corner. A number of songs are well-known to the people, and none better than that of "Sarwan". This young lady lived in Gangana in the Gohana tahsil, which is commonly called *garwan Ka Gangana* after her; the song is a common one of the dancing-girls of North India¹.

Great difficulty was experienced in persuading the people to welcome the opening of schools in their villages. A new type of rural schools, with simpler and more suitable courses of instruction, was evolved in the hope that the people would realise the gain to their children from undergoing a simple course of reading, arithmetic and native accounts, with elementary geography and the study of patwaris' papers. The sessions of these schools were also held so as to interfere as little as possible with the work of the boys in the fields. These schools differed from the ordinary town primary schools in presenting a simpler course of study specially designed to meet the needs of an agricultural people; but they were not popular and the villagers preferred the full course of the town primary school.

There was an anglo-vernacular middle school at Gohana during 1884. English was taught in the school. There was a vernacular middle school at Kharkhoda in 1905. Besides the above schools, there were mahajan schools. They were not permanent schools and had no prescribed course of instruction.

The introduction of the Punjab Primary Education Act, 1919, which introduced compulsion, gave a fillip to primary education which led to an increase in the number of middle and high schools also.

The non-availability of trained teachers was a constraint in the progress of education. The district did not make much headway in the sphere of education till the achievement of Independence.

As a result of keen interest taken by the State Government and voluntary organizations in the spread of education, a phenomenal increase occurred in the number of educational institutions. Much progress had been made in the sphere of education in the district than other adjoining areas.

1. *Rohatak District Gazetteer*, 1883-84, p. 55.

The district had only 2 colleges, i.e. Hindu College, Sonipat and C.R.A College, Sonipat, during 1951-52 to 1960-61. The number of colleges increased from 2 in 1960-61 to 9 in 1973-74. All such colleges were managed by privately aided bodies. During 1988-89, there were 9 colleges, out of the total number of colleges, there was only 1 Government College. The total number of scholars in recognised colleges for general education (Arts, Science and Home Science during 1973-74 was 4,725 (3,936 boys and 789 girls). It increased to 7,385 (4,603 boys and 2,782 girls) including Scheduled Castes students during 1982-83 in the district. The total number of students including Scheduled Castes during 1988-89 was 8,510.

The total number of high/ higher secondary schools during 1973-74 was 79 (Government schools 58, aided schools 14 and un-aided schools 7). This number went up to 159 during 1988-89. In 1973-74, there were 55,027 students in the high/higher secondary schools. The number of such scholars increased to 1,03,082 during 1982-83. The total number of scholars was 1,29,081 during 1988-89.

The district had 69 middle schools during 1973-74 (66 Government schools and 3 un-aided schools). During 1982-83, the number of such schools declined to 66 (60 government schools and 6 non-government schools). In 1973-74, the students in the middle schools were 27,911 and this number of students increased to 29,660 during 1982-83. The total number of such Schools as on March, 31 1989 was 70.

In 1973-74, there were 239 recognised primary schools. All the above schools were being run by the Government. During 1988-89 the number declined to 238; the pre-primary schools were included in the grand total. The scholars in 1973-74 were 38,310. The number of such students decreased to 37,141 during 1988-89.

In 1988-89, there were 5,725 school teachers; 3,860 for high/higher secondary/multi-purpose/post basic schools, 859 for middle/senior basic schools and 1,006 for primary and junior schools. The teachers of pre-primary schools were not included.

The number of pupils per teacher during 1984-85 to 1988-89 is given below :

Classes	1984-85	1985-86	1986-87	1987-88	1988-89
Primary ..	50	50	50	50	50
Middle ..	50	50	50	50	50
High/Higher Secondary	50	50	55	55	55

EDUCATION OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND BACKWARD CLASSES

Before 1947, no special attention was paid to the spread of education among the Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes. These people were too poor to afford the benefits of education and too backward to be alive to its need. There was a tendency to employ young children on odd jobs to supplement the family income. It was after Independence that the Government vigorously directed its policy towards raising general level of literacy among them.

The following table shows the number of students belonging to Scheduled Castes only at different levels in recognized educational institutions during 1973-74, 1982-83 and 1988-89 —

Type of Institution	Year	Male	Female	Total
Primary/Pre-primary Schools	1973-74	4,036	879	4,915
	1982-83	3,549	2,058	5,607
	1988-89	4,151	3,711	7,862
Middle Schools	1973-74	3,413	656	4,069
	1982-83	3,181	1,545	4,726
	1988-89	2,980	2,285	5,265
High/Higher Secondary Schools	1973-74	5,575	708	6,224
	1982-83	11,733	3,316	15,049
	1988-89	12,327	6,672	18,999
Colleges	1973-74	273	260	533
	1982-83	366	38	404
	1988-89	379	41	420

The students belonging to these classes are provided with various facilities by way of reservation of seats in professional and technical institutions, exemption from payment of tuition fee and re-imbursement of examination fee and also by giving financial assistance in the form of scholarship. School books are supplied to them free of cost in 9th, 10th and 11th classes. College education is also provided free. Scholarship under the State Harijan Welfare Scheme and Government of India Post-Matriculation Scholarship Scheme is also provided/awarded.

EDUCATION OF WOMEN

As in other parts of Haryana, education of women remained neglected in the past. During 1910-11, there was a Girls Primary School (Vernacular) at Sonipat which was under the control of District Board. In 1930, a District Advisory Committee was constituted for the improvement of education of women. The Kanya Gurukul at Khanpur was established in 1939. This institution still flourishes and caters to the needs of the female population of the rural areas.

After Independence, position of female education improved. After the formation of Haryana as full-fledged State, the progress of female education accelerated. The number of girls schools with Scholars during 1973-74, 1982-83 and 1988-89 is given below :—

Year	Type of institution	Total number of institution for women	Total number of students
1973-74	Women College	2	789
	High/higher Secondary schools	18	13,983
	Recognised Middle Schools	14	8,019
	Reconisged Primary School	12	11,153
1982-83	Women Colleges	3	2,211
	High/Higher Secondary Schools	27	30,773
	Middle Schools	15	11,544
	Primary Schools	8	13,814
1988-89	Women College	3	3,296
	High/Higher Secondary Schools	35	22,668
	Middle Schools	12	4,138
	Primary Schools	27	3,915

In the urban and rural areas, the girls are allowed admission in all the institutions.

District Educational Set-up

The District Education Officer is responsible for the administration and control of all primary, middle, high and higher secondary schools. He is directly under the administrative control of the Director, Public Instruction, Haryana Chandigarh. He is assisted by One Deputy Education Officer.

There were 7 Block Education Officers on March, 31, 1989. Their areas of operation are normally co-terminous with those of development blocks.

Besides, an Assistant Education Officer looks after the promotion of physical education in the schools of the district.

MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION

The medium of instruction in the schools of the district is Hindi. The teaching of Hindi as a medium of instruction and as first language starts from Class I. English is taught from class VI as a second language. Sanskrit/Urdu/Telgu or Panjabi is taught as a third language in class VII and VIII. To provide safeguards to the linguistic minorities, provision has also been made for the teaching of Urdu/Punjabi as an additional subject from class I, provided 10 pupils in a class or 40 in whole of a primary school or primary section of a middle, high or higher secondary school are desirous of studying this language. But the medium of instruction and the first language even for such schools, remains Hindi.

GENERAL EDUCATION

The position in respect of various grades of schools as well as colleges imparting higher education is discussed below :—

Pre-primary Schools.—Pre-Primary education caters to the need of children in the age group 3-6. The system of pre-primary education has not yet developed fully and it is not well organised. However, the people in the urban areas have become conscious of its importance for small children. Some retired teachers, educationists and voluntary organizations have started such schools at Sonipat and Gohana.

Primary Schools.—The course of primary education covers children in the age-group 6-11 and consists of five classes, i.e. from class I to Class V. Since April, 1961, the primary education has been made compulsory. Education at this stage is imparted free and all such schools¹ are mixed. Most of the teachers are either basic-trained or have been oriented to the basic pattern.

1. The total number of all types of schools (Primary, middle, high/secondary as on March 31, 1963 in the district has already been given.

Middle Schools.—It was proposed to introduce compulsory education for all children upto the age of 14 years, but in view of immense difficulties such as lack of adequate funds, continuous increase in population and inability of poor parents, it could not be translated into practice. The introduction of compulsory primary education has its impact on the enrolment at the middle stage. The primary schools are up-graded to middle schools according to their enrolment.

Secondary Education.—Secondary education comprises classes IX and X but it extends to class XI in higher secondary schools. For a majority of students, secondary education is of a terminal character. To meet the requirement of those who wish to earn their livelihood after completing their secondary education, besides, providing a broad base for admission to higher course of study, diversified courses were provided in some of the schools which were converted into higher secondary schools.

The policy of starting higher secondary schools (also called multi-purpose) with diversified elective groups (humanities, science, commerce, agriculture, fine-arts and Home-science) was initiated in 1957 on the recommendations of Mudaliar Commission (Secondary Education Commission). But the experiment did not prove a success. Now 10+2 system of education is being introduced in Haryana state.

Public schools.—Besides the above schools, now-a-days, many modern public schools have mushroomed in the district. These modern schools are English medium from the 1st class to middle and matric. Such schools are managed by private bodies or under personal management. Only middle class people or rich persons can afford to send their children to such institutions which charge exorbitant fees.

HIGHER EDUCATION

The higher education comprises college education. The description of each college in the district is given below :

Chhotu Ram Arya College, Sonipat.—In 1951, Late Ch. Tikaram (Ex-Revenue Minister in Joint Punjab) inspired by the idea of providing education to the poor people, founded this college in the memory of 'Sir' Chhotu Ram and named this college "Chhotu Ram Arya College". The College is affiliated to the M.D. University, Rohtak for Pre-University (Arts and Science), Pre-Engineering, B.A., B.Com. and B.Sc. It has 15 spacious playgrounds and well equipped library having 20,713 books (text books-16,113 and general books-4,600). There are two museums; one Botanical and another Zoological.

In 1988-89, the college had 2,296 students (2,274 boys and 22 girls). The number of students belonging to Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes was 186 and 102 respectively.

The college has been giving free books to the needy students out of the book bank for the last many years. The average cost of these books comes out to about Rs. 7,000 per year. The poor students are being helped by the college. The average amount so spent comes out to Rs. 6,000 per year.

The educational standards have been maintained by the college by getting merits in the University examinations. The distinctions secured by the students are given below :

Year	Class	Position No. on the merit list of the University
I	II	III
1973	Prep-Science	85th
	Prep-Commerce	62 and 95th
1974	B.Commerce I	1st, 4th, 5th and 6th
	B. Commerce II	5th and 7th
	B. Commerce III	7th
	Prep-Medical	57th
	Pre-Medical	33rd
1975	Prep-Commerce	21st
	Pre-Medical	10th and 12th
	B. Commerce II	1st, 2nd, 5th, 8th, 9th
	B.Sc.III	24th, 26th and 58th
	B.Commerce III	12th and 22nd
1976	Pre-Engineering	8th
	B. Sc. III	9th and 19th
	B. Commerce III	1st, 2nd, 5th, 9th, 12th and 20th
1977	Prep-Commerce	9th and 11th
1979	Prep-Commerce	13th
	B. Commerce II	3rd, 4th and 7th

I	II	III
	B. Commerce III	7th
	B.A.I	15th
1980	B. Sc.II	3rd
	B. Commerce I	11th
	B. Commerce III	3rd(ii) and 5th
1981	B.Sc.I	6th
	B.Sc. III	2nd
	Prep-Commerce	6th
	B. Commerce I	15th
	B. Commerce II	7th, 11th and 15th
1982	B. Commerce I	6th and 7th
	B. Commerce III	7th
1983	B. Commerce II	Ist and IInd

The college has one senior division of N.C.C. and one Unit of N.S.S. scheme. The performance of N.C.C. of this college has been very good. The cadets lifted/won the university trophy in the inter-college firing competition for two consecutive years, i.e. 1976-77 and 1977-78.

Games for which facilities have been provided are Hockey, Football, Volley-Ball, Kabaddi, Basket-ball, Shooting and Table Tennis. One student of the college represented Indian Kabaddi team played in Pakistan during 1983-84.

The sources of income are: Grants-in-aid, contributions, donations, fees, etc. The year-wise details of income and expenditure during 1972-73 to 1988-89 are given below :—

Year	Income	Expenditure
	(Rs.)	(Rs.)
1972-73	11,56,935	9,46,402
1973-74	11,66,374	11,41,965
1974-75	12,17,062	13,62,585

1975-76	12,07,581	10,97,787
1976-77	11,63,281	12,30,425
1977-78	11,22,186	11,89,701
1978-79	12,82,839	14,05,483
1979-80	11,61,920	12,15,738
1980-81	15,55,510	15,53,656
1981-82	16,42,586	17,30,194
1982-83	22,26,458	23,30,744
1983-84	23,17,302	22,46,881
1984-85	32,26,983	31,64,542
1985-86	36,97,570	28,44,392
1986-87	36,87,756	28,76,746
1987-88	48,49,068	35,86,772
1988-89	45,91,678	40,99,643

There is a hostel attached with college building having 75 rooms (accommodation for 150 students). There is an arrangement for indoor games.

Hindu College, Sonipat.—The college was established on June 2, 1956. During 1956, there were 200 students in the college. It is affiliated to M.D. University, Rohtak, for 10+2 system (Arts and Science) Commerce, Pre-Engineering, Pre-Medical, B.A. and M.A. (English and Hindi). The total number of students on its roll in 1966 was 2,282 including 302 girls. The strength of students increased to 2,400 in 1982-83. The staff members (teaching and non-teaching staff) were 160. The total number of students as on March 31, 1989 was 1,790.

The standard and fame of education attract the students from far off places such as Delhi, Bengal, Bihar, N.E.F.A. The students from the foreign countries (Malayasia, Indonesia and Tenzania) also got their admission in the college.

The college is being run by the Hindu Educational and Charitable Society, Sonipat. It has a well-stocked library with 66,283 books (54,190 library books and 12,093 bank books). It also subscribes to many journals and newspapers. There is a big science laboratory with modern equipments. Besides N.C.C., the National Social Scheme has been adopted by the college.

The distinctions secured by the students in the University examinations during 1972 to 1979 are given below :

Year	Class	Position on merit list
I	II	III
1972	Pre-University	3rd, 5th and 6th
	Pre-Engineering	6th
1973	Pre-Medical	3rd
	B.A./B.Sc. II	2nd
	B.A./B.Sc. III	7th
1974	Pre-University	5th, 10th, 11th and 12th
	B.A./B.Sc. III	1st
1975	Pre-University	1st, 5th and 11th
	Pre-University (Commerce)	7th and 14th
	Pre-Medical	7th and 13th
	Pre-Engineering	2nd and 5th
	B. Commerce III	8th, 23rd and 29th
	B.A./B.Sc. II	1st, 5th and 16th
	B.A./B.Sc. III	3rd, 5th, 15th, 16th, 24th, 27th and 30th
1976	Pre-University (Commerce)	9th
	Pre-Medical	2nd, 10th, 11th and 17th
	Pre-Engineering	5th, 19th and 20th
	B.A./B.Sc. I	3rd, 7th, 9th, 11th, 12th and 19th
	B.A./B.Sc. III	2nd and 19th

I	II	III
1977	Pre-University	3rd, 4th and 9th
	Pre-University (Zoology)	1st
	Prep-Commerce	5th, 7th and 8th
	Pre-Medical	1st, 2nd, 5th and 9th
	Pre-Engineering	9th, 11th and 12th
	B. Commerce	6th
1978	Pre-University	1st, 2nd, 12th, 14th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 23rd, 24th and 25th.
	Pre-University (Commerce)	5th
	Pre-University (Arts)	4th, 5th, 6th, 9th, 18th, 19th 22nd, 24th and 25th
	B.Sc.	2nd, 14th and 19th
	Pre-Medical	4th, 6th and 11th
	B.A. II	4th, 7th and 8th
	B.A. III	1st and 3rd
1979	Pre-University	5th, 7th, 12th, 13th, 14th and 15th.
	Pre-University (Commerce)	4th, 5th and 10th
	B.Sc. I	2nd and 7th
	Pre-Engineering	1st, 3rd, 4th and 10th
	Pre-Medical	3rd, 5th, 6th and 8th
	B.Sc. II	2nd, 3rd, 4th, 6th, 8th, 11th and 13th
	B. Commerce III	2nd and 3rd
	B.Sc. III	10th
	B.A. I	1st, 2nd, 4th and 5th
	B.A. III	3rd, 4th, 7th and 11th

1. Position on merit list from 1980 to 1989 may be seen in the Tabel of XIX of Appendix.

Hindu College of Education, Sonipat.—The college was started by Hindu Education and Charitable Society in 1968 to meet the great demand of the area. It began with one hundred students and it acquired full-fledged status with four units of 200 students of B.Ed. in 1970. It had O.T. classes also from 1968 to 1975. During 1981 to 1983, it was again given the responsibility of running condensed course for J.B.T. (Home Science) to make them qualified to work as regular teachers. Thus, the institution trained 4,000 teachers by 1983. It aims at the development of character and inculcation of right attitude. The number of students in the 'Teachers' Training Courses¹ was 200 during the academic year, 1988-89. There is separate arrangement for boys and girls in the college.

The college is affiliated to M.D. University, Rohtak. It has been showing excellent results from the very beginning. Each year a good number of positions of merit are won in the university examinations. In 1988-89 the institute bagged 17 positions (1st divisions).

There is a well equipped library with 13,110 books on different categories—Education, Philosophy, Sociology, Psychology, School Organization, History, general, etc. The library provides excellent opportunities, both to the teachers and students, to enrich their knowledge by getting the latest information from various books, magazines, journals, periodicals and dailies. It is a matter of credit that the college authorities provide the students with a complete set of required text books from the college book-bank which is expanding every year.

The sources of income are : grants-in-aid and fees. The co-curricular activities are organized to enable the students to come with their best performance in various items. To get the good intellectual food from all possible sources, the college invites the greatly reputed educationists from time to time.

To create in the young minds a sense of responsibility towards the community, N.S.S. programmes are organized in the villages. The students not only work for improving the village surroundings but also do from door to door teaching the people about the principles of happy and healthy life.

Tika Ram College of Education, Sonipat.—To remove the educational backwardness, the college was founded in July, 1975 through the efforts and munificence of Tika Ram Education Society, Sonipat. This is a privately-managed institution. It is ideally situated at the south end of Tika Ram Road in an atmosphere free from turmoil of busy town.

J.B.T.¹ Classes were organised for two sessions only.

The college imparts instruction in B.Ed. courses and is affiliated to the M.D. University, Rohtak. There were 206 students (121 in boys-section and 85 in girls-section) during 1988-89. There were 17 staff members (teaching staff-7 and ministerial staff-10).

A number of cultural functions are organized to inculcate the spirit of leadership and to encourage healthy pursuits amongst the students.

The college has a good library with the total number of 5,000 books. It also subscribes to 20 journals, magazines and newspapers. It has vast play-grounds, spacious lawns and well equipped laboratories. N.S.S. programmes are also followed.

The college magazine "Haryana Sumar" is published once a year. Grants-in-aid and fees are the main sources of income.

Hindu Girls College, Sonipat.—Hindu Girls College, Sonipat was founded as a section of Hindu College in a separate building through the efforts and munificence of the Hindu Educational and Charitable Society in 1958. The society made a liberal donation for the construction of the college. It is a privately-managed institution. It was separately affiliated to M.D. University, Rohtak in July, 1982.

The number of students on roll during 1988-89 was 1,950. The number of lecturers and members of non-teaching staff was 62 and 60 respectively. The college imparts instruction upto degree level in the faculties of humanities, Science and Commerce. Training in N.C.C. and N.S.S. is also imparted to the students.

It has vast play-grounds, verdurous spacious lawns, well-equipped laboratories, botanical and zoological museums and a rich library with a stock of 18,000 books. A number of literary and cultural functions are arranged to inculcate the spirit of public speaking and to encourage the healthy pursuits among the students. The college magazine "Pankaj" is also published once a year.

There is a girls hostel with an accommodation for 400 students. One lady Medical Officer, one Pharmacist and one Nurse have been appointed for hostel and college students.

B.P.S.M. Girls College, Khanpur Kalan.—The College was established at Khanpur Kalan in 1967. The courses of arts faculty (B.A. and B.Sc.) are imparted here. There is an arrangement for science groups (Medical and non-medical), 10+1 and 10+2.

The coaching of sports is given to girls regularly. The girl-players took part in the competition for basket-ball at Pant Nagar. Two girl-players were

selected to take part in Indian Volley-ball team at the time of 33rd Senior National Volley-ball championship.

Cultural programmes are also held in the college.

The number of students on roll during 1988-89 was 750. There were 27 members on the teaching staff. It has a very good library. In 1988-89 session, 12 students of 10+2 class secured merit-scholarship in the university examination. One girl student of this college got 1st position in the B.Sc. II year of Dayanand University, Rohtak during the academic session of 1988-89.

Government College, Gohana.—The college, formerly known as Haryana War Heroes Memorial College, was founded in July, 1966. Previously it was a privately-managed institution which was taken over by the Government on 12th February, 1981. It is housed in two storeyed building consisting of three blocks.

The college imparts education upto degree level in the faculties of Humanities and Commerce and is affiliated to Maharshi Dayanand University, Rohtak. The total number of students in the college was 1,109 during 1988-89 (976 boys and 133 girls). It had 131 students (127 boys and 4 girls) belonging to Scheduled Castes and 62 (57 boys and 5 girls) to other Backward Classes.

The staff members (subject-wise) are as follows :—

Subject	Number of lecturers
English	8
Hindi	7
Sanskrit	4
History	2
Economics	2
Political Science	3
Mathematics	3
Geography	4
Commerce	4
Public Administration	1
Total :	38

The number of non-teaching staff was 27.

Free books are supplied to the students from the book bank of the college on return basis at the end of the session. The total number of books as on 31st March, 1989 in the library was 17,621. The subject-wise details of books are as follows :-

Subject	No. of books
English	2,360
Hindi	3,354
History	1,281
Political Science	1,490
Geography	1,344
Commerce	1,748
Sanskrit	918
Mathematics	1,273
Economics	1,637
Public Administration	826
General	574
Reference books	448
Religious Books	368
Total :	17,621

The college had one N.C.C. company and one N.S.S. unit. A magazine, *Bhairvi*, is brought out annually. A number of literary and cultural functions are arranged to inculcate the spirit of public speaking and also imbibe the spirit of national integration.

It has only one play-ground where the games of Volley-ball, Basket-ball, Badminton and Kho-Kho are generally held.

The academic distinctions/merits secured by the college in different university examinations are given below :—

Year		Class	Position
1978-79	..	Pre-Commerce	5th
1981-82	..	B.A. I	1st (Awarded gold medal) and 5th
		Prep-Commerce	4th
		B. Commerce II	3rd
1982-83	..	B.A. II	2nd
1987-88	..	B.A. I	5th
1988-89	..	B.A. II	2nd

C. R. Engineering College, Murthal.— Chettu Ram State College of Engineering at Murthal started functioning from the academic year 1987-88 with admissions in two disciplines, Electronics Engineering and Mechanical Engineering with an intake of 30 students in each discipline. From the session of 1989-90, two new branches i.e. Computer Science Engineering and Electronics Engineering were introduced with an intake of 30 which has now been increased to 45. The College is affiliated to the M.D. University, Rohtak. It is located on the national highway (No. 1) at a distance of about 50 k.ms. from Delhi. The campus of the college is being developed on a piece of land measuring 272 acres, donated by the Gram Panchayat, Murthal.

The college is governed by the Board of Governors and is headed by a Director-Principal.

The college has been approved by All India Council for Technical Education to offer under-graduate courses of study in six disciplines of Engineering with an intake of 270.

The details of the courses and number of students as on March 31, 1989 are given below :—

Sr. No.	Name of the Class	Name of the Branch	Year of admission	Students admitted	Male	Female	S.C.
1.	B.E.I-Year	Electronics Engg.	1988	30	27	3	5
2.	B.E.I-Year	Mechanical Engg.	1988	31	30	1	5
3.	B.E.II-Year	Electronics Engg.	1987	30	24	6	4
4.	B.E.II-Year	Mechanical Engg.	1987	30	30	..	1

The strength of the staff as on March 31, 1989 was 66 (teaching 16 and non-teaching 50).

There is a provision of a hospital for boys with cubicles. The hostel for girls is under construction and temporary arrangements for their stay have been made in faculty residences.

Satya Nand Sanskrit Mahavidyalya, Gohana.—The Mahavidyala was set-up at Gohana on May 1, 1957. The courses imparted here are: *Pragya, Vishard. Shastri, Rattan and Prabhakar*. During 1988-89, there were 110 students, 25 boys and 85 girls. There were Five members on the teaching staff. It is affiliated to Maharshi Dayanand University, Rohtak, for the above courses.

There are 1,500 books in the college library. Two newspapers and one journal in Hindi are provided in the library.

PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

With the rapid strides in the field of Science and technology, it is but natural that education should become more and more science based. The economic developments have also had their impact on the educational requirements in this direction. A number of technical and professional institutes were started in the district in response to these requirements.

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

Janta College of Pharmacy.—The College was set-up at Butana in 1977. After a period of 2 years a diploma in pharmacy is awarded to the successful students.

There were 124 trainees (1st year-59 students and 2nd year-65 students) during the academic session of 1988-89.

Hindu College of Pharmacy, Sonipat.—The pharmacy College was established in May, 1973 at Sonipat. It imparts pharmacy education up to diploma level. It is being run by the Hindu Educational and Charitable Society, Sonipat.

The course is affiliated to the Board of Technical Education, Haryana, Chandigarh. The college is also recognised by Pharmacy Council of India, New Delhi, with an intake of 120 students.

It is well-equipped with ten laboratories and highly qualified staff. The number of students during 1988-89 was 259. There is a well-furnished library with a provision of book bank. Hostel facilities are also provided to the students. The students secure 1st, 2nd, 3rd or 4th positions every year in the Board Examination.

Technical Education

The Government Institute of Surgical Instruments and Technology at Sonipat imparts training in two specialised disciplines of Mechanical Engineering, viz. (i) Surgical Instruments and Technology and (ii) Machine Tools and Die Sinking Technology of 3 years' duration with an intake of 30 students each. Originally the administrative control of this institute was with Industrial Training Department but it was transferred to the Technical Education Department in 1978.

Industrial Training.—Industrial training is imparted to boys and girls in the Industrial Training Institutes with a view to ensuring a steady flow of skilled workers in different trades. The aim is to raise quality and quantity of industrial production by systematic training of workers and to reduce unemployment amongst educated youths by equipping them for suitable industrial employment. Training is provided in engineering and non-engineering trades.

The details of the technical Institutes as on March 31, 1989 are given below:—

Name of the Institute	Trades
1. Sonipat	Draughtsman, Mechanical, Fitter, Electrician, Grinder, Turner, Machinist, Wireman, Tool and Die Maker, Motor vehicle, Mech. Radio and TV, Ref. & Air Conditioning Carpenter, Diesel Mechanic, Moulder, Welder, Wireless Operator, Steno (Hindi), Steno (English), Blacksmith, Painter, Mech. Tractor, Sheet Metal Worker, Millwright Mechanic, Electronics Mech.

I.T.I., Ganaur

Fitter, Sheet Metal

I.T.I., Gohana

.. Draftsman (Civil), Fitter, Turner, Wireman, Steno
Hindi, Handweaving, Dari & Niwar, Mech. tractor,
Electronics Mechanic.

Incentives are provided by way of scholarships of Rs. 45 per mensem per student on poverty-cum-merit basis to one-third of the students on roll in each institution. Trainees belonging to Scheduled Castes are given a scholarship of Rs. 75 per mensem. Ex-servicemen and their dependents are also awarded scholarships for such training at Rs. 100 and Rs. 40 respectively. Besides, technical training, medical aid, workshop clothes and hostel accommodation are provided free of cost to all trainees.

Vocational Education

During 1988-89, there were vocational Institutes at Sonipat, Kathra Purkhas, Mundlana, Rohtak, and Gohana.

EDUCATION OF THE HANDICAPPED

Training Centre for blind adults, Sonipat.—Realising the educational-cum-vocational needs of the blind adults, the State Government set-up a training centre for men between the age of 18 and 40 at Panipat in July, 1962. It was shifted to Sonipat in 1964. The object of this centre is to impart education and training to the blind in order to make them economically productive members of society and to enable them to lead a normal life.

The blind are imparted education in the centre through the orthodox methods. No tuition fee is charged from such students. The duration of the course is 3 years. All the expenditure is met by the Social Welfare Department.

During 1988-89, there were six teachers. The year-wise number of students during 1973-74 to 1988-89 is as follows:—

Year	Total inmates
1973-74	41
1974-75	43
1975-76	32
1976-77	31
1977-78	32
1978-79	31
1979-80	29

1980-81	29
1981-82	25
1982-83	29
1983-84	26
1984-85	31
1985-86	33
1986-87	27
1987-88	26
1988-89	19

GURUKUL TYPE OF EDUCATION

There are 3 *gurukuls* in the district; 2 for boys (at Arshrapur Matindu and Bhainswal Kalan) and one for girls (at Khanpur Kalan). The main purpose of these institutions founded on the pattern of education in ancient India, is to teach Sanskrit and Hindi. Their aim is to teach the Vedas and other Shruti lore. These provide physical education according to ancient ideas. But, as elsewhere in the country, there is a tendency to convert these *gurukuls* into the modern type of institutions. The *gurukul* at Bhainswal Kalan, which functions as a branch of Gurukul Kangri (Hardwar), was founded, by Bhagat Phool Singh, a disciple of Swami Brahma Nard. He also established a *gurukul* at Khanpur Kalan for girls, which now functions as an important rural institution. One wing of the *gurukul* (Higher Secondary School) was upgraded as Bhagat Phool Singh Memorial College.

SOCIAL EDUCATION

An essential requirement of adult suffrage is the eradication of illiteracy from the country. Due to financial limitations it has not been possible to cope with this stupendous programme in a big way. However, efforts are being made to co-ordinate the programmes of voluntary organizations with the efforts at the government level. There are many organizations which run social education centres in the district for men and women; the Social Education Workers supervise these centres. The main centres in the district were :—

(i) Social Education Centre for Men, Sonipat

(ii) Social Education Centre for Women, Gohana

(iii) Social and Adult Education Centre for Women, Samaj Kalyan Sabha, Gohana

(iv) Social Education Centre for Men, Organo Chemical Industries, Sonipat

The Samaj Kalyan Sabha, Gohana, holds literary classes and women are given elementary education to eradicate illiteracy from the society. More than one thousand women attend regular lectures on different social subjects in weekly Saturday classes (*Satsang*) and they are given training for social and religious work. For the benefit of women, a training club with cultural programmes has also been established. It stages dramas, holds debates and declamation contests. Thus the trainees are given opportunity to develop a sense of fine arts. The art of music, dancing and public speaking is also taught to them.

These centres in addition to imparting elementary knowledge of reading, writing and arithmetic, maintain libraries, arrange lectures on cleanliness, sanitation and personal hygiene and provide other recreational and cultural activities.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

National Fitness Corps.—In order to develop character and discipline and to make the children physically fit, the late General J.K. Bhonsle started the National Discipline Scheme. This scheme created a new awakening in the field of physical education culminating in the formulation of the National Fitness Corps Programme containing a wide scope of physical education. Good points of all schemes relating to physical education were incorporated in the scheme for National Fitness Corps and an integrated syllabus was evolved.

The programme includes exercise tables, drill and marching, lezium, gymnastics and folk dances, major and minor games and relays, track and field events, tests and hiking, combatives and national ideals and good citizenship, practical projects and community singing of the National Anthem and patriotic songs.

The scheme is implemented in the district under the general supervision of District Education Officer who is assisted by an Assistant Education Officer. The physical training has been re-oriented towards a new programme. One Instructor has been provided in all the high and higher secondary schools whereas in middle and primary schools, teachers have been made incharge of the programme.

National Cadets Corps.—National Cadet Corps (N.C.C.) was introduced in the educational programme in 1948 to develop the qualities of leadership, unity and discipline. It was made compulsory after the Chinese Aggression for all the able-bodied under-graduate male students at college level. In 1969

two other programmes, namely; the N.S.S. (National Service Scheme) and sports were introduced as an alternative to N.C.C., which is no longer compulsory. The N.C.C. training is imparted regularly to both boys and girls during the academic sessions and through outdoor camps.

During 1988-89, there were two divisions; Senior Division and Junior Division (the Senior Division with 800 cadets in the colleges while the Junior Division with 1,000 cadets in the schools). All the cadets in the district are covered by the 12 Haryana battalion N.C.C., Sonipat which is under the control of Group Headquarters of Ambala Cantt.

National Service Scheme.—This scheme was introduced in the educational programme of the country in 1969. It was adopted in the colleges of Haryana in 1970-71. The scheme aims at educating the students through community service. It helps the students to develop an awareness and knowledge of the social reality and to have a concern for the well-being of the community.

Under the scheme, the students undertake activities designed to tackle social problems and promote social welfare. Its activities are multifarious and include adult education, tree plantations, family and child care, rural cleanliness, blood donation, etc.

N.S.S. training is imparted regularly during the academic sessions and through outdoor camps. The scheme is functioning in almost all the colleges of the district.

The N. S. S. has been functioning in the Chhotu Ram Arya College, Sonipat since 1971. The service was done during the following events by the youth of the college:

- (i) Youth camp was organized during drought at village Juan in 1973.
- (ii) Youth camps were organized against dirt and disease at village Kakroi in 1974 and 1975; and
- (iii) Youth camps were organized against rural reconstruction at village Jagdishpur in 1976 and 1977.

Besides, other activities taken by the students of the same college were: adult education, environmental sanitation, earth-work at village Jagdishpur, tree plantation, coaching of weak school boys, popularisation of *golar* gas plants and formation of youth clubs in villages.

Bharat Scouts and Guides.—The Haryana State Bharat Scouts and Guides Association came into being as a separate entity in April, 1970. Previously it was a Joint Organisation of both Punjab and Haryana. Its State Headquarters is situated opposite Law Department in Punjab University Campus, Sector-14,

Chandigarh. The affiliation of the State Association rests with its National Headquarters at 16 Mahatma Gandhi Marg, New Delhi. Its Scouts/Guides training centres are at Taradevi (Shimla Hills), Ambala Cantt., and Hissar.

Aims and Objects.—The association aims at inculcating and promoting reverence to God and Selfless service to the mother-land and humanity. There is a association in every district. The District Education Officer functions as District Scout Commissioner.

Functions.—The association organises training camps for adult leaders and Special Proficiency Badges Training Camps for Scouts and Guides at Taradevi and in the district. The association is engaged in character building activities of the youth by undertaking various programmes as indicated below:—

- (i) Organising training camps for adult leaders and for scouts and guides;
- (ii) Holding of Cub/Bulbul Utsav and rallies;
- (iii) Holding of seminars on adult education, population education and community development, etc;
- (iv) Participation in Prime Minister's shield competition;
- (v) Participation in social service camps, such as Solar Eclipse fair, Kapal Mochan, Phalgu and Kumbh fair;
- (vi) Participation in the President's scout/guide rally;
- (vii) Observance of Railway Service Day;
- (viii) Participation in National and International event; and
- (ix) Special Projects are taken up on the guide lines given by the National Headquarters such as;—
 - (a) Community singing courses
 - (b) National Integration camps
 - (c) Health and sanitation
 - (d) Cleanliness drive
 - (e) Creation of hobby centres
 - (f) Preservation of greenaries
 - (g) Free eye operation camps

Thus the organisation trains the boys and girls in the principles and practice of the scout movement. The activities of this movement include training camps, refresher courses; sight-seeing, etc. The association teaches its trainees, belief in God, discipline, co-operation, self-help and self-confidence, thereby promoting their physical, mental, moral and spiritual development.

This scheme is prevalent in every school in the district. Number of registered scouts and guides in the district as on 31st March, 1989 was 18,205, as detailed below :—

1. Cub/Scouts/Scouters	12,215
2. Bulbuls/Guides/Guiders	5,990
Total :	<u>18,205</u>

SPORTS

Physical education is a part of human life as well as of education. It helps in building a sound mind in a sound body.

In schools these activities are controlled by the Physical Training Instructor who takes further guidance from the coaches concerned. In primary and middle schools, some interested teachers handle the sports activities. The sports activities at college level are controlled by D.P.Es. They organise college level and university level tournaments in the district.

Sports activities in the district include school tournaments, panchayat tournaments and open tournaments. All such activities in the district are organized by the District Sports Officer, Sonipat.

The school tournaments are generally conducted under the guidance and control of the District Education Officer who heads the District School Tournaments Committee as its *ex-officio* chairman.

The panchayat tournaments at the block and district level are organized under the control of Block Development and Panchayat Officer and A.G.A. Various panchayats take part in block tournaments and block teams compete in the district panchayat tournaments. The teams from the district are sent to compete for the panchayat tournaments held at the State level. The colleges in the district participate in tournaments organised by the University. Various associations also organise open tournaments for different games.

The Sports Department gives financial assistance to various associations and institutions for promotion of sports. Young and talented players are encouraged and coaching is imparted to them. Coaching centres have been established separately for men and women for training in various games.

To promote sports in the rural areas, the State Government has opened Rural Sports Centres at various places in the district.

Moti Lal Nehru School of Sports, Rai.—The Motilal Nehru School of Sports is an upcoming and prestigious institution which was started by the Government in 1973. It is located in the vicinity of the village Rai, on the National Highway No. I, Sher Shah Suri Marg. The beautiful surroundings and spacious lush green lawns create an ideal atmosphere for a boarding school. The school campus comprises about 300 acres. Across the road, the school has a farm land measuring 64 acres.

The main aim of starting the school is to attract the children when they are young and to develop their multifacet personality in an atmosphere of ordered freedom. Quality education is being imparted on most modern lines and the activities of the students are being so channelised as to enable them to acquire a sense of responsibility and self-discipline.

The school is a co-educational institute which is being run on the public school lines. The medium of instruction is English. The school is affiliated to the Central Board of Secondary Education, New Delhi, under the 10+2 scheme of education. The total strength of the school during 1988-89, i.e. (March 31, 1989) was 776. There were 16 students belonging to Scheduled Castes. Children are initially admitted to class IV and they normally leave the school after passing the class XII. Being the biggest institute of this kind in the State, it is designed to impart quality education on modern lines and aims at blending the public school character with our cultural heritage. Not only does it have a streamlined system of academics but it also has a scientifically planned programme of physical education to ensure balanced development of personality and provides opportunities to children to excel both in games and sports and in studies. A special emphasis on sports is an outstanding feature of the institute. The school is unique in the sense that special emphasis is given to aptitude in games and sports at the time of admission and it admits children solely on the basis of merit.

The State Government heavily subsidises the education and even a man of ordinary means can realise the dream of sending his son or daughter to such an institute. Though the school is meant for the residents of Haryana, 20 per cent of the seats are reserved for the children from other states. The majority of students admitted here come from the middle and lower middle classes.

The school plan has features which would be the envy of any good institute in the country. It has a number of excellent playgrounds. It has a stadium with a velodrome and an 8-lane 400 metres cinder track. There are four cemented badminton courts, three cemented Basketball courts, four Volleyball courts, three cemented and three turf cricket pitches, three foot-ball and three

hockey grounds. There are five lawn tennis courts; two concrete tennis courts and one squash court. There is an Olympic size swimming pool with eight lanes. The indoor gymnasium is very well-equipped. It is provided with rubber-jumping pits. There is provision for Badminton, Volley-ball and tennis courts inside the gymnasium. Horse-riding was introduced in 1986. This was adopted by the Sports Authority of India, New Delhi for promotion of sports in the country with effect from the Session 1985-86 under the National Sports Talent Contest Scheme of Government of India.

The school has been a venue for the XXII National School Games in swimming and football. The seventh Indo-USSR women's Hockey test was played in 1980. In order to make full use of the unique coaching facilities available here, talented boys and girls with special aptitude for games are invited from all over Haryana for summer and winter coaching camps. These camps help a great deal in scouting out existing talent.

A careful watch is kept on the performance of the school students in the sports. Initially for a few years, the students are expected to play all the games.

Besides the outdoor activities, considerable emphasis is also laid on a number of co-curricular activities which develop the creative talent of the students. Some of the activities in which the students regularly participate are hiking, dramatics, debates, art and painting, elocution, music, dancing, band, extempore speech making, etc. Opportunities are also offered to develop interest in varied and useful hobbies like stamp collecting, photography, electronics, industrial chemistry, wood work, metal work, needle work, knitting, food preservation, adventure club, social service, etc.

In the sphere of cultural activities, the school does not lag behind. All the students (girls and boys) come forward to exhibit their talents at various shows held in the school at regular intervals. There is an auditorium with 500 seats, equipped with proper stage lights and 35 MM projector. The school has well stocked library, well-equipped science laboratories and crafts workshop. There is 25-bed hospital headed by a resident Medical Officer.

LIBRARIES AND MUSEUM

Libraries.—The institution of library was introduced in the district in the third decade of the 20th century when a few libraries were opened in the villages. These libraries were meant for literate villagers who for one reason or another could not continue their further studies. The books catering to the needs of persons in different vocations and professions were taken to a central place in a village and distributed from there. These libraries could not be developed for lack of funds. After attainment of Independence, the Government began to

encourage the opening of such libraries. Social Education Centres were provided with latest books. A District Library Committee with the Deputy Commissioner as Chairman was constituted in January, 1980 to promote the library movement by the Education Department.

The brief details of the important libraries are given below :

District Library, Sonipat.—The library was set up in January, 1980. It contains about 6,000 books valuing approximately Rs. one lakh. It is open to general public and about 300 persons visit daily. As many as 6 newspapers and 20 periodicals are made available to the readers.

Shahstri Public Library, Sonipat.—The library was established in January, 1966 by the Youngmen Association, Jamalpura, Shahstri Marg, Sonipat. It contains 900 books valuing Rs. 4,000. It is open to general public and about 225 persons visit daily. It subscribes to a large number of newspapers and periodicals for public reading.

Municipal Library, Sonipat.—It was established by the Municipal Committee in 1952 and is located in the hall of the Committee near railway station. Its functioning is looked after by the municipality. It has 5,500 books of all kinds valuing approximately Rs. 35,000. It subscribes to a number of dailies/periodicals for general reading. There are 300 persons who visit the library daily.

Municipality Library, Gohana.—The library was set-up in 1955. It contains 2,500 books on various subjects valuing Rs. 30,000. It is open to general public and about 300 persons visit it daily. Newspapers and periodicals are also provided to the readers. The President of the municipality looks after its functioning.

Municipal Library, Ganaur.—It was started in 1979 in the municipal building. There are 1,250 books in the library. The approximate value of the books is Rs. 15,000. The control of the library is vested with the administrator of the municipality. It subscribes to a large number of newspapers/periodicals for the general readers. About 150 persons visit it daily.

Museum.—There is no museum in the district.

CULTURE

Haryana *Swang* follows the old tradition, being the most popular variety of performance based on the 'open stage' technique. It is an all male troupe. The female roles are played by males, due to strict social custom.

Playing/staging *swang*, two prominent sangis, i.e. Dip Chand Bahman and Pt. Lakshmi Chand contributed immensely to the cultural aspects in the

district. They imbibed many qualities such as patriotism, truth, sacrifice., etc. in the minds of the people not only of the area but also throughout the Haryana State.

In Haryana the most celebrated name is that of Dip Chand Bahman of village Sheri Khanda in Sonipat district. He is still in public memory and is popularly styled as the 'Shakespeare' or 'Kalidas' of Haryana. Semi-literate, he had a spark, a touch of genius. He polished the style of Ali Bux and gave a new colour to this folk art. The *swang* of that time had two categories ; (i) Kirtan style and (ii) Nautanki style. Dip Chand's style of performance incorporated elements from music dance, pantomime, versification and ballad recitation.

During the First World War, when Dip Chand's capacity for improvisation and adaptation was at its peak, the British Government made him a 'Rai Sahib' and granted him favour. His catchy songs with martial tunes attracted large recruits to the army.

Among Dip Chand's many contributions to the folk music of *swang*, the outstanding one is that he opened the eyes of contemporary singers and music lovers to the prime importance of voice culture and voice modulation and the supreme value of emotion in music. He was truly the King of emotions. It was his genius that chiselled off the harsh crudities and angularities of the old style of the stage and lent it a polish and glow. Among his talented disciples may be mentioned Hardeva Swami, Bhartu Brahman, Butabi Doom and Khema.

Pt. Lakshmi Chand of Janti Kalan (Sonipat) is the next most celebrated name in Haryana after Dip Chand. He improved the *ragini* style of singing. He possessed a very rich, melodious voice and was also a successful composer. The important *swang* staged by him include *Nal Damyanti*, *Meera Bai*, *Satyavan Savitri*, *Seth Tara Chand*, *Puran Bhagat*, and *Sahi Lakarhara*.

Baje Bhagat who gave a new life to *sang* poetry, was born in Sisana village of Sonipat district. Right from early childhood, he took active interest in village theatre and music. As he grew up, he joined the *sang* group of Guru Hardeva and travelled a lot to learn all about the profession of his choice.

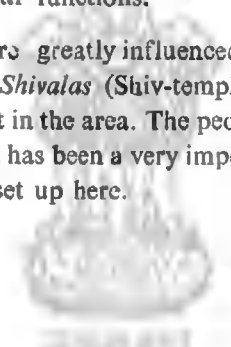
With his emergence on the scene of *sang* theatre, a new kind of poetry came up. Baje Bhagat soon came to be known for verse that did not forsake good language to gain public attention. He contributed a lot to *sang* poetry and like other poets of his times, used images that describe his age. He was killed by an enemy at the age of 35. Some of his popular works include "*Raja Amb*, *Padmavat*, *Jamal*, *Chandra Kiran*, *Raja Harish Chanra*, *Roop Basant* and *Puran Mal*."

The large number of disciples he left behind included Pt. Mange Ram, Mai Chand, Sultan, Chadan and Rati Ram.

The other aspects of the culture in the district have been detailed in the Chapter-III (People). Besides, there is a composite culture in the district. There are many shrines in the district in which Muslim *pirs* are worshipped by the Hindus and Muslims, alike. The earthen lamps are lighted and offerings are made on Thursday on such memorials even by the Hindus. This is one of the many instances of co-existence of culture and traditions. Hundreds of people irrespective of their religion can be seen paying obeisance at different religious places in response to the urges of the composite culture.

The colleges and other educational institutions lay great emphasis on the promotion of cultural pursuits. Some colleges have introduced music and dance as the regular discipline in the course of their studies while others have cultural societies/associations for the promotion of fine arts, music, dance, drama, etc. These societies organize cultural functions.

The people of this district are greatly influenced by Hindu classic literature and outlook on life. There are *Shivalas* (Shiv-temples) almost in every village. Shiv-worship is widely prevalent in the area. The people are generally God-fearing. Bahalgarh village of this district has been a very important seat of vedic literature. A Sanskrit High School was set up here.



CHAPTER XVI

MEDICAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

INTRODUCTION

Before the advent of the British, two systems (Ayurvedic system and Unani system) of medicine were prevalent in the country. By and large, the Hindu families patronised the Ayurvedic system and the Muslims favoured the Unani system. The allopathic system was introduced during the British rule. Exotic but based on the progressive research in medical science, it gradually carried conviction of its usefulness. The medical facilities provided by opening a few allopathic institutions in the area were inadequate to meet the needs of the people. The rural masses in particular continued to depend on the services of ayurvedic and unani practitioners who, apart from being more readily available charged small fees.

The state of public health was not so satisfactory. In former years, owing to the defective alignment of the Western Jumna Canal and the consequent water-logging of soil, malaria and enlarged spleens affected the lives of the people, especially in rural areas. In the canal-irrigated villages, the standard of health and vitality was materially lower than elsewhere. The fact attracted the attention of the Government as long ago as 1847, when a committee was appointed to enquire into the sanitary state of irrigated areas. The Medical Officer, Dr. Dempster, in his memorandum forming part of the report, showed that in many villages of this part, 75 per cent of the people had disease of spleen, and that the average proportion of the persons thus diseased to the total population of the villages, examined during the enquiry, was nearly 50 per cent.

In 1867, another enquiry was instituted by the Government of India and the report by Dr. A. Taylor, Civil Surgeon of Delhi, showed clearly the presence of an unusual amount of spleen disease and its close connection with the degrees of swampiness and lack of drainage found in various parts. The villages enjoying the greatest advantages of irrigation were almost invariably those where the debilitating disease had assumed its most prominent form.

Cholera and plague occurred frequently in the Sonapat area during 1900 to 1904. The commonest eye diseases were granular lids and ulceration of the cornea.

Gohana town had much higher death rate than that of the dry tracts. The old Gohana tahsil of the then Rohtak district was more malarial and more productive of lung, spleen and bowel disorders.

During 1878-79, the attack of plague was so severe that the crops could not be cut and the usual harvesting wage to the reaper was one-half of the yield.

In 1900, the death-rate from fever alone reached the appalling figure of 51.53 per mile.

In 1901, 1,739 deaths occurred due to plague in Butana. In Mundlana as many outbreaks had lost 1,481 lives or 26 per cent of its population. In Chirana the same number of outbreaks had taken toll of 701 souls out of 2,470 or 28 per cent.

The dirty conditions of the villages and the impurity of water supply were sufficient to account for much of the sickness. There was brackish water in many parts of the district and in Gohana tahsil it was often covered with an oily scum. It was considered so indigestible that successive tahsildars had imported all their water from outside, sometimes from as great a distance as Rohtak.

Besides the use of indigenous and allopathic medicines, the people resorted to other methods to cure the serious diseases during 1910. The following instance is quoted from Rohtak District Gazetteer, 1910¹ :—

“Fakirs in especial are resorted to for their healing powers, but the range of remedies is usually confined to astringents such as the juice of *AK* plant to mercury and sulphur and above all to charms. Eye complaints are treated with poppy fomentation which doubtless gives relief, and sometimes with actual cauterisation on the temple which may act as a counter irritant in cases of inflammation. For abscesses, ulcers, fractures and dislocations, the village barber is always ready while the *lohar* will sometime extract a tooth. For cobra bite the remedy in which the people believe is a draught of nicotine from a *hookah* stem, with a liberal application of the same to the eyes, the swallowing of a pea cock's feather being an alternative remedy which is somewhat discredited”.

The use of allopathic medicines became more popular after Independence. Realising that the indigenous system of medicine had been favoured by the masses for a long time, the Government established the Directorate of Ayurveda in November, 1956, for its revival. On the other side, the modern facilities were expanded to check diseases and improve public health.

Medical and Health Services

The medical and health services are looked after by Chief Medical Officer at district level and he is mainly assisted by Deputy Chief Medical Officer (Medical), the Deputy Chief Medical Officer (Health) and Other programme Officers. The medical service is essentially a hospital organisation for rendering medical relief to the public. This is provided through allopathic hospitals and

Ayurvedic institutions. The details of allopathic medical institutions (hospitals, dispensaries and primary health centres) as on March 31, 1989 in the district are given below :—

Name of the hospital/dispensary	No. of Medical Officers (in position)	No. of beds
1. Civil Hospital , Sonipat	16	100
2. Civil Hospital, Gohana	5	26
3. E.S.I. Dispensary, Sonipat	11	12
4. E.S.I. Dispensary, Ganaur	1	Nil
5. Jail Dispensary, Sonipat	Nil	Nil
6. Family Planning Centre, Sonipat	2	..
7. Revamping Centre for slum Area	1	Nil
8. T. B. Clinic, Sonipat	2	..
9. E.S.I. Dispensary, Bahalgarh	2	..
10. E.S.I. Dispensary, Rai	2	..
11. E.S.I. Dispensary, Murthal	1	..
Primary Health Centres		
1. P.H.C., Ganaur	3	16
2. P.H.C., Halalpur	2	8
3. P.H.C., Juan	2	8
4. P.H.C. , Mundlana	2	8
5. P.H.C., Lath	Nil	..
6. P.H.C., Kathura (under the administrative control of Rohtak)	Nil	..
7. Purkhas	2	..
8. Moi Mazri	..	..

9. Dobheta	1	..
10. Butana	2	..
11. Bhatana Jafarabad	1	..
12. Siwana Mal	..	..
13. Farmana	2	..
14. Jakhauli	2	..
15. Murthal	2	..
16. Bidhlan	..	..
17. Bega	1	..
18. Bad Khalsa	1	..
19. Banwasa	1	6

Community Health Centres

1. Gohana	7	26
2. Kharkhoda	3	16

During 1988-89, the number of dispensaries was 17 (Ayurvedic 15 and Unani 2). The list of such institutions and sub-health centres are given in the Table XX of Appendix.

During 1989, the total number of patients treated in the district was 5,78,424 (Indoor patients 15,176 and outdoor patients 5,63,248). The beds available during the same year were 240 (120 for males and 120 for females).

The patients numbering 9,290 were treated in the Ayurvedic and Unani institutions. In March, 1989, the number of Vaidyas/Hakims was 17. Besides, 17 Dispensers and Compounders were working in the above-mentioned institutions.

The Description of Civil Hospital, Sonipat, Civil Hospital, Gohana and T.B. Clinic at Sonipat is given below:—

Civil Hospital, Sonipat.—The hospital was set up in 1900 and since then it has been run by the State Government.

It has a provision for 100 indoor patients (60 male patients and 40 female patients). It offers all the usual facilities of a general hospital, viz., medical, surgical, gynaecology, midwifery, laboratory, x-ray and dental. In 1989, hospital was headed by the Chief Medical Officer, who was assisted by 18 doctors.

The following figures show attendance of indoor and outdoor patients during 1987 and 1988:—

Year	Indoor patients	Outdoor patients
1987	9,197	88,265
1988	9,918	1,14,070

Civil Hospital Gohana.—The hospital was setup in 1974 at Gohana. It offers all the facilities of a general hospital, viz. x-ray and laboratory facilities, gynaecology, obstetrics and dental. It has a bed provision for 24 patients (12 beds for females and 12 beds for males). In 1989, the hospital was headed by a Senior Medical Officer, who was assisted by 5 doctors and 1 dental surgeon. The following figures show attendance of indoor and outdoor patients during 1987 and 1988:—

Year	Indoor Patients	Outdoor Patients
1987	2,386	46,945
1988	2,602	42,799

T.B. Clinic, Sonipat.—Keeping in view the high incidence of tuberculosis, a T.B. clinic was setup at Sonipat in 1978. It is being run in the building of the Civil Hospital. It is equipped with X-ray and indoor facilities. In 1989, it was manned by 2 Medical Officers, 2 T.B.H.V., 1 Statistical Assistant, 2 clerks, 1 Laboratory Technician, 1 Radiographer and other staff.

The year-wise number of persons who were given outdoor treatment at the clinic during 1986-87 to 1988-89 :

Year	New Cases		Old Cases		Total Cases	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
1986-87	591	307	30	9	621	316
1987-88	602	387	31	13	633	400
1988-89	749	417	23	8	772	425

Diseases Common to the District

The common diseases that occur in the district are the typhoid group of fevers, tuberculosis, chest infections (other than tuberculosis), gastro-enteric diseases, malaria, leprosy and trachoma. A brief description of these diseases is given below:—

Small Pox.—Previously, this disease was considered very serious in the district. Small Pox commonly occurred in the area in an epidemic form and many people became disfigured, lost their eye sight or other organs or died of it.

It is appropriate to explain the steps taken by the Government to contain the disease. In order to control it, vaccination was made compulsory. The programme of eradication of Small Pox, a centrally sponsored scheme, was launched here in 1965. The strategy then adopted was to vaccinate all the new born babies and re-vaccinate at least 80 per cent of the total population.

In 1973, an intensive campaign was launched by the Government of India with the active support of the World Health Organisation. During 1973 to 1976, 14 special searches were carried out in the district and as soon as a case of small-pox was reported, prompt investigational and containment measures were instituted. The last case of small-pox was reported in the district during May, 1975. The National Commission on small-pox visited the district in December, 1976. The International Commission also visited Haryana State in April, 1977 and declared the district free from this disease.

Plague.—Plague, being an epidemic, was the most feared and always resulted in a loss of large number of human lives. It is now completely non-existent in the district. The factors responsible for its disappearance have been the spraying of houses with insecticides to kill rat fleas and systematic de-ratting measures.

Cholera.—No case of this disease has been detected in the district from 1973 to 1989. To control this disease, many steps, viz. proper arrangements for disposal of refuse and of human excreta, protection of eatables and drinking water from pollution, anti-fly measures and mass inoculation in hospitals and dispensaries were taken by the medical authorities.

Malaria.—This disease develops during years of excessive wet monsoon associated with overflow of river and streams resulting in a large number of stagnant pools. Due to river Yamuna, the district is affected by floods very often. The flood water creates unhygienic conditions. Mosquitos breed and spread Malaria. Due to heavy rains in 1952, as many as 100 villages of Rohtak district were flooded. Extensive measures had, therefore, to be taken to prevent the outbreak of the disease in the affected areas. Anti-malaria work was carried out in Sonipat and Gohana tahsils in 1953 and 1954. A malaria sub-unit was established in 1953 at Sonipat.

Malaria control measures undertaken during 1953—58 resulted in a marked decline in the annual incidence of the disease. The child spleen rate diminished and similarly, the child mortality rate decreased. With this success National Malaria Control Programme was switched over to National Malaria Eradication Programme during 1958. Under this programme, anti-malaria operations were carried on regularly in the area. Consequently, the number of cases considerably dwindled and the area was declared also most free from malaria.

After the eradication of malaria, Gohana sub-division comprising Gohana, Mundlana and Kathura blocks switched over to the maintenance phase from December 1, 1965. It was attended to by the Basic Health Workers in the Primary Health Centres. Malaria work in these blocks was supervised by the Medical Officer under the maintenance scheme. In January, 1967, the special appraisal team again visited the district and recommended the maintenance phase in the area. The work in the consolidation phase was supervised by the Deputy Chief Medical Officer (Health), the Malaria Officer and Senior Malaria Inspectors.

After the formation of the Sonipat district, District Malaria Office was created in 1973. When it was realised that malaria again Cropped up, the insecticidal spray plan was launched. Under this spray plan, the spray operations were started simultaneously in all the blocks during 1977.

It was felt that the cooperation of panchayats and local bodies was essential to minimise the effects of malaria. Accordingly, drug-distribution was started in all the villages of the district.

The work done by the Health Department in the district during 1973 to 1989 is shown below:—

Year	Fever cases detected	Blood slides obtained	Malaria cases found
1973	1,02,283	1,02,283	9,652
1974	1,33,940	1,33,940	10,271
1975	2,02,470	2,02,470	39,229
1976	2,48,533	2,48,533	59,433
1977	2,97,237	2,97,237	65,522
1978	3,10,662	3,10,662	79,982
1979	2,46,338	2,46,338	42,796
1980	2,85,154	2,85,154	35,560
1981	2,29,373	2,29,373	47,686
1982	1,65,118	1,65,118	11,483
1983	1,33,520	1,33,520	2,344
1984	1,36,584	1,36,584	2,066
1985	1,36,523	1,36,523	2,228
1986	1,54,802	1,54,802	1,114
1987	1,52,392	1,52,392	146
1988	1,54,123	1,54,123	102
1989	29,912	29,912	5

Gastro-enteric diseases.—The most common infections are typhoid and enteric group of fevers, dysentery and diarrhoea, disease of 5 F's. (flies, fingers, faeces, fomites and food). These diseases are well-under control as a result of organised preventive measures taken by the public health Staff at primary health centres and supervisory staff at the district headquarters.

Trachoma.—It is a common eye disease in the district especially amongst the children under the 10 years of age. It is prevalent mainly in the rural areas.

The incidence of the disease is very high. Seventy to eighty per cent of the total population suffer from disease due to hot and dry climate. The primary health centres are playing a big role in controlling this disease.

Leprosy.—It is not a common problem in the district but a few cases were reported in the hospitals for treatment. It is basically found in tropical and sub-tropical regions. Only 42 cases were reported upto 1975. Out of 42 cases, 32 cases were from a registered colony named Bathany village which is situated near Ganaur on G.T. Road. The leprosy cases reported in May, 1989 were 77.

Tuberculosis.—It poses a major problem in the district. B.C.G. vaccination campaign was launched under the T.B. control programme in 1950 by I mobile team responsible for mass inoculation in the whole of the then Punjab State. An independent unit consisting of technicians under the supervision of the Deputy Chief Medical Officer (Health) for Rohtak district came into existence in 1960. B.C.G. work was carried on in a planned manner by the technical staff visiting house to house. Sonipat and Gohana areas were covered by the unit.

In addition to the measures adopted by the State Government, the Government of India has been vigorously taking interest to control this disease since 1965. Arrangements were made to provide the facility of diagnose and treatment near the home of the patients. Special surveys were conducted some years back and the incidence of tuberculosis was found 2 per thousand of the population.

The medical facilities against this disease have been arranged in all the primary health centres and various dispensaries under the supervision of the district T.B. Clinic.

The total number of deaths occurred in the district and their causes during 1973 to 1989 are given below:—

Year	Fevers	Dysentery Diarrhoea	Bronchitis	Wounds	Other diseases
1973	2,697	58	479	162	767
1974	2,794	47	990	192	1,804
1975	2,888	58	520	192	1,831
1976	3,357	53	462	143	1,341
1977	2,708	46	484	136	1,484
1978	3,846	72	549	216	1,691
1979	3,856	54	377	238	705

1980	4,760	39	466	164	762
1981	4,778	55	444	183	761
1982	2,432	47	559	160	1,612
1983	2,288	46	571	207	1,938
1984	1,198	53	649	263	2,933
1985	1,272	57	542	256	2,877
1986	1,028	46	475	307	2,659
1987	24	53	478	296	4,439
1988	Nil	50	401	168	3,864
1989	(Not available with the Department)				

Vital Statistics

The record of births and deaths is very essential for the planning and working of the health programmes. In towns, the municipalities keep the record and in villages this duty is carried out by chowkidars who report day to day statistics at the police stations of their area. After compilation, the statistics are passed on by the Station House Officer to the Chief Medical Officer. The following table indicates births and deaths during 1973 to 1989:—

Year	Births			Deaths		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
1973	11,823	10,244	22,067	2,298	1,968	4,266
1974	11,232	9,223	20,525	3,096	2,735	5,831
1975	11,210	9,339	20,549	3,048	2,441	5,489
1976	11,365	9,682	21,047	3,010	2,336	5,306
1977	11,246	9,517	20,762	3,276	2,582	5,858

1978	10,090	7,985	18,075	3,602	2,772	6,374
1979	11,172	8,656	19,828	2,973	2,257	5,230
1980	12,624	9,175	22,339	3,582	2,609	6,191
1981	11,277	9,337	20,614	3,543	2,678	6,221
1982	12,110	9,185	21,395	2,853	1,957	4,810
1983	12,695	8,909	21,604	3,023	2,027	5,050
1984	16,994	9,010	20,994	2,912	2,184	5,096
1985	12,865	9,803	22,668	2,880	2,126	5,006
1986	13,304	9,414	22,718	2,628	1,887	4,515
1987	13,173	9,512	22,685	3,098	2,192	5,290
1988	12,846	9,270	22,116	3,483	2,494	5,977
1989	(Not available with the Health Department)					

General Standard of Health

The medical facilities before Independence were inadequate. The people easily succumbed to diseases and deaths. Things began to improve somewhat after the achievement of Independence. The pace of development accelerated after the formation of Haryana and more particularly after the creation of separate district of Sonapat in December, 1972. The villages are shaking off old inertia as a result of the communications and thus established their contact with the outside world. Preventive and prophylactic measures against diseases and rapidly expanding medical care/facilities saved them from hazards. With the advancement in agriculture, trade and industry, their economic condition has improved and their living standards have changed for better. Next to good food, safe drinking water is of great importance for health and the bulk of villages have already been provided with this and the remainder are being covered. All this has been instrumental in a big way in changing the outlook of the masses and in improving health. The general standard of health of inhabitants of the district is now much better.

The people of this district take sufficient protein in the form of *lassi* and fat in the form of *ghee*. By and large, people are vegetarian and usually consume *chapatis* with vegetables or rice with dals; only a small section of them takes body building proteins (meat, eggs, fish and milk and other protective foods (green leafy vegetables, salad, fresh fruit, etc.)

PREVENTIVE MEASURES TO PROMOTE PUBLIC HEALTH

The modern conception of good health lays greater emphasis on prevention of disease. This necessitates various kinds of measures. The younger generation at school must be given health education which is perhaps the most important activity for any effective preventive measure. Likewise, family planning and maternity welfare require the greatest attention if the problem of over-population has to be satisfactorily dealt with. It is equally necessary to take suitable measures to prevent adulteration of food, promote desirable knowledge about the practice of nutritive articles of food, make supply of clean and safe drinking water (possible for even those living in rural areas) and to take other steps as will improve environmental hygiene.

School Health Services.—Since 1973, the school health services have been made an integral part of all hospitals, primary health centres and rural dispensaries. Previously, this system was not well-regulated. Under this scheme/programme school children are thoroughly checked up and arrangements are made for treatment of those found suffering from any disease.

The District School Medical Officer and Public Health Nurses visit the schools from time to time. The following table shows the work done under the school Health Programme since 1985:—

Type of work done	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
1. No. of schools visited by the District Medical Officer/ Medical Officers	244	296	196	168	166
2. No. of children examined	22,249	72,903	54,893	29,066	21,127
3. No. of children referred after medical check-up	2,724	1,777	1,920	343	130
4. No. of teachers trained in school health work	316	163	309	182	243

Health Education.—In the present concept of community health, health education has come to play a significant role. Its aim is to provide integrated, curative and preventive service for better health of the citizens. Therefore, proper health education is the main pre-requisite for the success of all health programmes.

Health education has been made an integral responsibility of all medical and para-medical personnel in the district. It is mainly carried out through the staff of health centres. At block level, the Block Extension Educator under the guidance of health authorities handle this work. The District Mass Education and Information Officer organise mass education work at the block level.

For successful implementation of the health education programmes, three dimensional approaches, viz. the mass approach, the group approach and individual approach are followed. To create awareness among the people in this regard, modern mass communication medias are employed. These include film shows, drama and cultural programmes. In addition to the above, bhajan parties, puppet shows and visual publicity through wall-paintings, bus-boards, cinema slides, banners, mass meetings, declamation contests, etc. are also employed.

Besides the departmental efforts of various wings of Government, like social Welfare, Education, Development, Revenue, etc. local leadership (political, social and religious) is also involved to create favourable attitudes and health consciousness among the people.

Family Planning/Family Welfare.—The family planning programme was introduced in the area in 1959 with the opening of family planning clinic at Ganaur. With the help of grants-in-aid from the Government of India, the District Red Cross Society opened family clinics at some places.

Prior to 1961, the family planning approach was essentially clinical and it could not gain popularity. A family planning clinic was set-up in 1967 at Sonipat Civil Hospital. Mass vasectomy camps were organised but the movement could do little to check the unwanted growth of population. During the Third Five-Year Plan, this programme was started on war footing when the clinical approach was replaced by extension approach and stress was laid on the provision of facilities nearer to the house of the persons. The District Family Planning Bureau started functioning during December, 1972. All activities of family planning programme are carried out under the supervision and guidance of the Chief Medical Officer. He is assisted by the District Family Planning and Maternity Child Health Officer. At block level, a rural family planning unit was attached with each Primary Health Centre in 1967. Each unit is under the charge of a Medical Officer. He is assisted by an Extension Educator, Family Planning Field Workers, Lady Health Visitors, A.N.Ms and trained Dais. At each primary health centre, there are 4 male workers and A.N.Ms. Now family planning services are provided through multi-purpose Health-workers. At village level, services are rendered by sub-centres, field workers and rural dispensaries.

For successful implementation of the family planning programme, a 3-dimensional approach of education has been formulated, viz. the mass approach,

the group approach and the individual approach. Mass approach implies creating awareness among the public and building opinion against the population explosion and in favour of small family. For this, all available modern mass communication media are employed. Teams from state headquarters, district headquarters, Directorate of Audio Visual Publicity (Government of India) and other departmental district agencies like Public Relations, Agriculture, Education, etc. engage themselves in a number of activities. These include film shows, exhibitions, dramas, *bhajan* parties, *kirtan mandalis*, puppet shows, indigenous media of drum-beating, visual publicity through wall-paintings, bus-boards, hoardings, cinema slides, banners and pasting of posters.

The group approach, which is considered the best tool for community education, is carried out in a number of ways, viz. group meetings by personal workers, debates, question-answer programmes, group lectures, seminars and also through organised social groups in the society like Youth Forums, Mahila Mandals, Farmers' Groups, cooperative societies, panchayats and panchayat samitis.

The individual approach leads to motivation of cases. The general awareness created and the group education imparted can only meet the needs of this target oriented programme if proper motivational activities are carried to the homes through visits by the workers. Thus, a lot of stress is laid on efforts in this direction. The whole area is surveyed to find out the attitude of people. Couples in the child bearing age-group are selected and those with similar opinion for small family norm and the number of children in a family are grouped together. Then they are paid follow-up visits to motivate them to adopt suitable methods of conception control depending upon the need of the family.

The family planning practices cover methods for limitation of families as also for spacing of children. The former include sterilization of males and females and the insertion of Copper 'T' and I.U.C.D. (Intra Uterine Contraceptive Device, popularity known as loop). The later include the insertion of I.U.C.D., Copper 'T', use of condoms, pessary, diaphragm, jelly, foam tablets, oral pills, etc. The oral pills are used both for spacing and limitation but these have not been introduced on mass scale.

Besides free medical and surgical services, transport and diet are arranged for sterilization cases. Cash incentives are also offered. A Government employee is granted 6 day's special leave in case of vasectomy and 14 days in case of tubectomy. One week's special leave is given to an employee whose wife undergoes tubectomy.

The progress of family planning (Now family welfare) work in the district during 1973-74 to 1988-89 is given below —

Year	Sterilization	Intra Uterine contraceptive Device	Conventional Contraceptive Users
1973-74	2,390	2,047	5,920
1974-75	6,099	4,065	12,963
1975-76	3,474	2,936	12,505
1976-77	10,572	4,619	19,943
1977-78	158	1,238	11,098
1978-79	544	1,738	9,239
1979-80	1,370	1,725	7,993
1980-81	1,737	1,680	6,839
1981-82	2,068	2,511	6,799
1982-83	4,568	2,688	9,705
1983-84	5,051	5,528	20,207
1984-85	4,217	8,638	27,541
1985-86	7,387	14,117	30,810
1986-87	4,171	10,727	37,505
1987-88	4,240	11,060	32,239
1988-89 (upto March 31,1989)	4,461	11,064	35,664

On March 31, 1989, there were 1,57,835 eligible couples. Now this programme is being accepted by the people as the way of life.

Maternity and Child Health Services.—A considerable number of women used to die as a consequence of child-birth and many more who survived suffered from lasting ill health. The work of attending to maternity services had, therefore, to be taken in hand on priority basis.

Maternal and child health-services have been considerably expanded. It has been made an integral part of the family planning programme. When

the idea of the small family is advocated, it is obligatory on the part of the Government to provide due coverage to maternal and child health. The care and service in this regard start as soon as a woman conceives, special trained staff and necessary strategy is employed for pre-natal, post-natal and toddler care through domiciliary and clinic visits. The required medicines and immunization of mothers and children against various diseases are aimed at. The maternity and child health work in rural areas is carried out by Lady Health Visitors, A.N.M.s and trained *Dais*. These services in urban areas are provided by all health and medical institutions.

Prevention of adulteration in food stuff.—Adulteration in food stuff is checked under the prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954. Besides the Food Inspectors in the district, specially appointed and authorised under the provisions of the Act, all Medical Officers have been vested with the powers of a Food Inspector.

Nutrition.—The primary health centres/sub-centres deal with nutrition, particularly at maternity and child welfare centres by organising milk feeding programme, providing vitamin A and D capsules, iron and multi-vitamin tablets/B-complex tablets received by them from UNICEF. They also help in arranging nutrients and medicines under school health services to the needy school children with the co-operation of the Education Department and the Red Cross Society. The applied Nutrition Programme aided by UNICEF was introduced in Kathura and Ganaur blocks. Under this programme, powder milk, eggs, *gur*, ground-nut oil, and fruits were distributed among the babies and pregnant mothers. The Programme aims at educating the people in taking balanced and nutritive diet from amongst the available food items.

Multi-purpose Workers' Scheme.—The multipurpose Workers Scheme being a centrally sponsored, is rendering special services to the people of the district. Such workers are to deliver health services covering family planning, nutrition, control of communicable diseases, etc. A unit of 5,000 persons has been allotted to 2 multipurpose workers; one male and another female.

The scheme is being implemented in 3 phases. The 1st phase was started in 1976. Under this phase, the basic health workers were re-designated as Multi-purpose Health Workers. During the 2nd and 3rd phases, they were allotted the different spheres of activities. At the primary health centres, the Block Medical Officers have been made responsible for implementing the multipurpose workers scheme under the overall guidance of the Chief Medical Officer.

Environmental Hygiene.—After personal hygiene and domestic cleanliness, environmental hygiene is equally important. The sanitation of town and village streets and lanes, the disposal of kitchen wastes and human excreta are some of other health problems.

With the coming up of development blocks, there has been an all-round activity for the improvement of villages in regard to link-roads, pavement of streets, drainage and clean water supply by providing hand pumps, tubewells and clean wells. It is advised that the cattle excreta be placed in dung pits; sullage water should be disposed of either in ponds or drained off in open fields. The prevention of food-adulteration, sanitation, school health services, and measures to control serious diseases are some of other factors which contributed towards the improvement of environmental hygiene in the rural areas.

The Block Medical Officer, the Sanitary Inspectors and other health workers guide the people. The villagers are advised to maintain manure pits.

Flood Relief.—During floods the public health staff takes speedy measures to afford relief to the flood-affected areas. Temporary dispensaries are established. Drinking water-wells are repeatedly disinfected and the affected localities are sprayed with insecticides to prevent breeding of the mosquitoes and flies and thus to check malaria. Funds are also provided by the Government for purchase of medicines and other equipment which is utilised for flood relief work as and when required. In addition, the District Red Cross Society distributes blankets, quilts and other items of clothing, skim-milk, multi/vitamin tablets and other items of necessity. Such measures were taken during 1957, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1964 and 1967 when the floods affected the areas.

UNICEF work and other preventive programme.—UNICEF is aiding promotion of public health in the district in many ways. In addition to providing vehicles for various health programmes it provides vehicles to primary health centres. All the primary health centres in the district are getting UNICEF assistance.

WATER-SUPPLY (URBAN)

Water-Supply for Sonipat Town.—Sonipat town was initially a tahsil headquarter under Rohtak district and it was selected by the Government of India for rehabilitation of displaced persons. The condition pertaining to the water supply in the town was very poor upto 1950. During 1950 to 1960, new shallow tubewells were installed with the expenditure of about 3.97 lakh and the supply of water increased from 5 gallons to 8 gallons per head.

During 1971 an estimate of Rs. 1.06 Crore for renovation of water supply scheme for the town was prepared and phase-wise work was taken in hand. The source of water supply was not inadequate only but became undependable also. As such it was decided to increase the water supply by boring the other tubewells at Murthal near the bed of the Jamuna river. An expenditure worth Rs. 87 lakhs on these works was made upto 1983 and the water-supply to the town was enhanced from 8 gallons to 18 gallons per head daily. In 1989 the water-supply rose to 20 gallons per head daily.

Water-Supply for Gohana town.—For a proper supply of piped water, an estimate amounting to Rs. 6.98 lakh was approved in 1962 and the scheme was commissioned during 1964. As a result 3 tubewells were installed with partial distribution system. The population of this town also increased enormously. In 1989 the rate of the water-supply was 15 gallons per head per day against the norms 25 gallons per head daily.

During the last 25 years, it was felt that the discharge of existing tubewells had reduced to a considerable extent. The under-ground water is brackish.

An estimate of Rs. 272.38 lakh for providing master water supply for the town based on canal filtration was prepared by D & P Division, Rohtak.

Water-supply for Ganaur town.—An estimate of Rs. 9.44 lakh of water-supply was approved in 1971, and the scheme was first commissioned in 1973. The water-supply was based on tubewells. On the basis of population of 1981 Census, the supply of water of 10 gallons per head daily was being supplied in the town against 25 gallons per head per day.

Now it has become necessary to renovate the existing water supply and a proposal in this connection is being processed through Superintending Engineer, Public Health Circle, Rohtak.

Water-Supply for Kharkhoda.—The water supply scheme based on canal filtration system was provided with an expenditure of Rs. 1,11,962 on the pattern of rural water-supply scheme. After this, the augmentation of water-supply scheme was taken in hand and an expenditure of Rs. 6.89 lakh was incurred on the work and the rate of water supply was kept 10 gallons per head per day, but due to increase in population, this rate was reduced to 5 gallons per head daily. An estimate amounting to Rs. 62.63 lakh for renovation of water-supply scheme was approved on 15th April, 1982.

WATER-SUPPLY (RURAL)

The people are mainly dependent upon hand pumps and open wells. Only 234 villages were declared as problem villages. The Government has been vigorously supplying piped water to the large number of villages by means of canal filtration system and deep tubewells. The details of rural water-supply are as follows :—

Name of the Scheme	No. of villages
1. Water-Supply Scheme, Khanpur Kalan	1
2. Water-Supply Scheme, Ahulana	1
3. Water-Supply Scheme Jagsi (group of 2 villages)	2
4. Water-Supply Scheme, Mundlana group of villages	2
5. Water-Supply Scheme, Gilan Kalan group of villages	2
6. Water-Supply Scheme, Bhawar group of villages	4
7. Water Supply scheme, Butana group of villages	2

8. Water Supply Scheme, Larsauli group of villages	1
9. Water Supply scheme, Jakhauli	1
10. Water Supply Scheme, Sisana group of villages	2
11. Water Supply Scheme, Asrafpur Matindu group of villages	2
12. Water Supply Scheme, Bhatgaon group of villages	2
13. Water Supply Scheme, Purkhas group of villages	2

As water is still in short supply, domestic and individual connections have not been given ; only public taps have been provided at focal points. The expenditure on the maintenance of rural water supply scheme during 1988-89 was to the tune of Rs. 44.78 lakh .

SEWERAGE (URBAN AND RURAL)

An estimate amounting to Rs. 13.60 lakh was framed in 1956 and out-fall sewer of 24' × 36" was laid in the mandi area of Sonipat town. A sewer was also laid for Model Town area and New Township on Rathdhana road. The following sewerage lines were provided in the Sonipat town against different estimates¹ :—

	Rs.
1. Sewerage scheme on circular road near Mushad Mohalla ..	76,000
2. Outfall sewer (24' × 36") ..	1,42,000
3. Sewerage Scheme for mandi area ..	9,42,875
4. Storm water-drainage scheme on Rathdhana road ..	5,29,000

For proper sewerage system in Gohana town, an estimate amounting to Rs. 38.31 lakh was approved on February, 26, 1979. In this estimate, it was proposed to provide 30"i/d outfall brick sewer. The work of subsidiary pumping station is in progress.

At present the underground sewerage system does not exist at Ganaur. The estimate for sewerage scheme, Ganaur, is under preparation.

An open channel exists at Kharkhoda. The work of sewerage scheme will be taken in hand when the augmentation of water supply scheme is completed.

There is surface drainage in the villages. The system is being looked after by the panchayats and block authorities.

1. The sewerage scheme phase-II of Sonipat town stands sanctioned.

CHAPTER XVII

OTHER SOCIAL SERVICES

INTRODUCTION

Social services as now understood are a new phase of public activities which have been assuming greater importance to fulfil the aims and objectives of a welfare state. Before Independence, the Government paid little attention to social welfare and was mainly concerned with the maintenance of law and order, preservation of peace and guarding the life and property of the people. After Independence the Government introduced and implemented various measures for ameliorating the condition of the backward sections of the society which were neglected or exploited and suffered from a number of disabilities for centuries together.

LABOUR WELFARE

Labour welfare, in a wider term, means everything that contributes to the improvement of the health, safety, general well-being and productive efficiency of the workers. It further includes such services, facilities and amenities as may be provided in or outside the vicinity of undertakings to enable the persons employed to perform their work in healthy and congenial surroundings.

Prior to Independence, there was no regular Government organization to look after the welfare of industrial workers, and to settle industrial disputes and other connected labour problems. A separate Labour Department in the Punjab State was established in 1949. After the creation of Haryana, the posts of Labour Officer and Conciliation Officer were combined and a Labour Officer-cum-Conciliation Officer was posted at Sonipat. He is assisted by 2 Labour Inspectors. The administrative control at district level is vested with the Deputy Labour Commissioner. One Factory Inspector was posted at Sonipat under the control of the Senior Inspector of Factories Panipat. All the above officers are under the overall control of the Labour Commissioner and Chief Inspector of Factories, Haryana. Chandigarh.

Labour Legislation

Labour legislation is that body of legal enactments and judicial principles which deals with employment, wages, working conditions, industrial relations, social security and labour welfare of industrial workers. It is that part of the state action by which the state intervenes in the conduct of industry and imposes statutory obligations for the most part on the employees and to a subsidiary degree, on the workmen. To tackle the labour problems many labour Acts were passed by the Central and State Governments.

The more important labour laws implemented are listed in the Table XXI of Appendix.

Industrial Relations.—The relations between the workers and employers are governed by the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947. The Deputy Labour Commissioner, Sonipat is responsible for enforcing it. His efforts are directed towards fostering good relations between the management and the workers by removing, as far as possible, the causes of friction and by timely redress of the grievances of the parties. Emphasis is laid on settlement of disputes, through direct negotiations across the table, or voluntary arbitration, rather than through compulsory adjudication. On his failure, the matter is referred to the Labour Court/Industrial, Tribunal, Faridabad/Rohtak through Government. Reference to the National Tribunal is to be made by the Central Government to cover such cases as are of national importance or those in which establishment of more than one state are affected.

During 1988-89, 365 dispute cases were handled. The number of cases settled/withdrawn/filed after enquiries was 354 as on March 31, 1989.

Works Committees.—To promote good relations between the employers and workmen, there is a provision in the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, for setting up of works committees in the industrial establishments, employing 100 or more workmen. Such Committees consisting of representatives of employers and the workmen exist in the following establishments :—

- (i) The Atlas Cycle Industries Limited, Sonipat
- (ii) The Milton Cycle Industries Limited, Sonipat
- (iii) E.C.E. Transformer Division, Sonipat
- (iv) E.C.E. Lamp Division, Sonipat
- (v) Maco Pvt. Limited, Sonipat
- (vi) Avon Scales Company, Sonipat
- (vii) Bharat Steel Tubes Limited, Ganaur
- (viii) Hindustan Everset Tools Limited, Sonipat
- (ix) Municipal Committee, Sonipat
- (x) Elasto Chemi (P) Limited, Sonipat
- (xi) Hilton Rubber Limited, Rai
- (xii) Gedore Tools India, Kundli

Strikes.—In spite of the efforts to promote good relations between the employers and workmen, strikes occur now and then. The details of the noticeable strikes that occurred in the district during 1975-76 to 1988-89 are given below :—

Sr. No.	Name of the Establishments	Strikes		No. of workers involved	Mandays Lost
		Began	Ended		
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	M/s Gedore Tools India Limited, Kundli	17-2-1977	18-2-1977	886	949
2.	Ditto	11-3-1977	21-4-1977	979	33,494
3.	M/s Atlas Cycle (P) Limited, Sonipat	23-8-1977	19-9-1977	3,324	71,776
4.	M/s Milton Cycle Industries, Sonipat	20-8-1977	26-8-1977	650	14,300
5.	M/s Hindustan Everest Tools, Sonipat	19-9-1977	4-10-1977	498	6,972
6.	Ditto	13-10-1977	15-10-1977	700	2,100
7.	M/s Atlas Cycle Industries, Sonipat	28-10-1977	22-11-1977	3,230	84,010
8.	M/s Hilton Rubber (P) Limited, Sonipat	4-5-1979	17-5-1979	435	5,220
9.	M/s Milton Cycle Industries, Sonipat	11-12-1979	16-1-1980	536	16,080

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There was no work stoppage during 1981 and 1983.

Trade Unions.—The trade union movement gained momentum since Independence. Since then the number of registered trade unions has been increasing. During 1988-89, there were 56 trade unions registered under the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926. Their list may be seen in the Table XXII of Appendix.

(1) Further details regarding the lock-outs during 1985 to 1989 may be seen in the Table of XXIII Appendix.

Factories Act, 1948.—The Act regulates the conditions of labour in factories not using power and employing 20 or more workers and in factories using power and employing 10 or more workers. Elaborate provisions have been made in the Act regarding the conditions of work inside the factories including hours of work, leave with wages in case of occupational diseases, employment of young persons, safeguards for health, hygiene, and promotion of safety and welfare of workers in general. Special provisions exist for young persons and women. Facilities for rendering first-aid, running canteens and creches, making available drinking water, etc. near the place of work are also provided.

With the establishment of large-scale units during the Third Five-Year Plan, the extension of various provisions of the Factories Act for labour welfare assumed special importance. The attitude of employer has changed in favour of providing better amenities to labourers. Consequently, there is no special problem about the enforcement of statutory provisions like appointment of Labour Officer and provision of basic amenities at the place of work. Promising and progressive factories like Bharat Steel Tubes, Ganaur, the Atlas Cycle Industries Limited, Sonipat and Hindustan Everest Tools Limited, Sonipat have gone a step further and provided, among other facilities free medical aid, sale of consumer goods at fair prices on credit, residential quarters and transport to and from factory site.

Subsidised Industrial Housing Scheme.—Realising the importance of housing and environmental hygiene as a welfare amenity within the means of workers, the Government of India initiated the subsidised industrial housing scheme in September, 1952.

A colony of 126 houses was set up at Sonipat. The rent for two room-set is charged at the rate of Rs. 16. Workers getting a salary upto Rs. 350 per mensem are entitled to a two-room set. The colony has been provided with electricity and water and there is provision for park and other modern amenities.

Subsidised by the Government, Bawa Iron and Steel Works Limited, Sonipat, and M/s Bharat Steel Tubes, Ganaur, constructed 30 and 224 two-roomed tenements, respectively. One tenement consists of 2 rooms, a kitchen, bath and flush latrine. These colonies are situated near the factories. This enables the workers residing in these tenements to enjoy fresh food at their residences during the lunch break. A large number of houses have been constructed by the B.K. Iron and Steel at Sonipat.

A worker has to pay only Rs. 20 to Rs. 24 per month as rent.

Creche for Women Labour.—The Labour Department set up a creche in Labour Welfare Centre at Sonipat where the working women can leave their

children during the working hours. For looking after these children, trained *aya* has been appointed.

Mode of Entertainment.—A Labour Welfare Centre is being run at Sonipat by the Government. There is provision of library and indoor games for the entertainment of the workers. The sewing, knitting and embroidery classes are held here. The family members of the workers get training under the supervision of a whole time teacher. The cloths and other stitching material are provided free of cost to these trainees. The preference is given to their trainees to purchase the clothes at reasonable price.

The Labour Welfare Board is also maintaining a film library where educational and feature films are kept. If the managements so desire, these films are screened in worker colonies and factory premises for the entertainment of workers and their families.

Two Holiday Homes at Hardwar and Kasauli set up by the Board continued functioning. The Houses are equipped with beddings and cooking utensils. The workers sponsored by their managements can go and stay with the members of their family without any charge. The workers are even paid one way fare by the Board and other way fare by the sponsoring employers.

In addition, some social organisations have also set up libraries.

Labour Welfare Officers.—Under section 49 of the Factories Act, the establishments employing 500 or more workers are required to appoint a Labour Welfare Officer. There are eight such factories (M/s Atlas Cycle Industries, Sonipat, M/s Milton Cycle Industries, Sonipat, M/s E.C.E., Sonipat, M/s. Bharat Steel Tubes, Ganaur, M/s Haryana Sheet Glass, Sewali, M/s Hilton Rubber (P) Limited, Rai, M/s Gedore Tools (P) Limited, Kundli and M/s Haryana Sheet and Alloys Limited, Murthal) which appointed Labour Welfare Officers.

General Wages.—The wages of the workers employed in the factories have been fixed under the Minimum Wages Act. The Officers of Labour Department posted at Sonipat are looking after the implementation of Minimum Wages Act and wherever any violation is detected, necessary steps are taken.

Employees' Provident Funds Scheme.—This scheme was sponsored by the Government of India under the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952. It was designed to provide social security to workers in the old age and other emergent situations during his life time. The scheme was introduced in the district on November 1, 1952 in the industrial concerns/establishments. Initially it was applicable only to such factories/establishments which employed 50 or more persons but this limit was lowered on December 31, 1960 and the establishments employing 20 or more persons were covered under this scheme.

Till January, 1963, provident fund contribution was deducted at the rate of 6½ per cent from the monthly emoluments of the subscribers and an equal amount was contributed by the employers. The rate of monthly deductions was enhanced from 6½ per cent to 8 per cent on January 1, 1963, in respect of industries/establishments employing 50 or more persons. During 1988-89, there were 267 establishments and 22,024 subscribers under this scheme in the district.

The fund vests in a Central Board of Trustees having the nominees of Central Government, State Government and representatives of employers and workers. The Regional Provident Fund Commissioner, Faridabad, is responsible for the implementation of this scheme. The Central Provident Fund Commissioner, New Delhi, is the Chief Executive Officer.

The subscriber can withdraw money from the provident fund for certain approved purposes. He is allowed to withdraw the full amount standing to his credit in the fund on completing 10 years of membership ; or on attaining the age of 55 years ; or after retirement from the service ; or on retirement on account of permanent and total incapacity for work ; or on migration from India for permanent settlement abroad ; or on termination of service in the case of mass retrenchment.

To afford financial assistance to the nominees/heirs of the deceased subscriber, a Death Relief Fund was set up in 1964 and a minimum of Rs. 1,000 as assured by way of relief. Now the sum assured has been enhanced to Rs. 1,250. A non-refundable advance is also granted in case of an industrial retrenchment in order to mitigate the immediate hardship. Under this scheme a sum of Rs. 6,16,399 was paid during 1988-89 to 128 claimants.

Family Pension-cum-Life Assurance Scheme, 1971.—This is also a centrally sponsored scheme which was introduced by amending the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952, on March 1, 1971. It provides Family pension to the heirs of the members of the fund who die prematurely while in service.

No additional liability on the members is imposed under the scheme, but 1½ per cent of his wages are transferred to family pension fund out of the amount of the subscriber as well as employer's contributions payable under the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952.

The members who join the above scheme at the age of 25 years or less and retire after attaining the age of 60 years are eligible to get upto a sum of Rs. 19,825. Similarly, those who leave service for reasons other than death are allowed withdrawal benefits at certain rates. For those who join the scheme after the age of 25 years, a percentage reduction in benefits has been prescribed.

The benefits are admissible only if the member has contributed for 3 months otherwise his own share of contribution to the family pension fund alongwith interest at the rate of 8.5 per cent is refundable to him.

During 1988-89, 107 family pension claims were settled with the amount ranging between Rs. 225 to Rs. 750 per month.

Deposit Linked Insurance Scheme, 1976.—Notified by the Government of India, this scheme came into force on August 1, 1976. The scheme applies to the employees of the factories/establishments which are covered under the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952. An employer is required to pay 0.5 per cent of the aggregate of basic wages, dearness allowance (including the cash value of food concession) and retaining allowance, if any, payable to the employees and 0.01 per cent of the aggregate of basic wages for meeting the expenses in connection with the administration of the Insurance scheme.

On the death of an employee who is a member of the fund, the person entitled to receive the provident fund accumulations of the deceased, shall in addition to such accumulations, be paid an amount equal to the average balance in the provident fund account of the deceased during the preceding three years provided that the average balance in the account of the deceased member is not below the sum of Rs. 1,000 at any time during the preceding 3 years. The payment shall not exceed Rs. 10,000.

In the Sonipat district 4 relief cases were settled and an amount of Rs. 21,296 was paid under this scheme during the year 1988-89.

EMPLOYEES STATE INSURANCE SCHEME.—This scheme is designed to accomplish the task of protecting employees as defined in the Employees State Insurance Act, 1948 against the hazards of sickness, maternity, disablement and death due to employment injury and to provide medical care to insured persons and their families.

The scheme provides protection to all employees engaged on monthly remuneration not exceeding rupees one thousand in a factory using power and employing 20 or more persons. The Act places prime responsibility on employers of paying as well as the employees' share of the contribution. The contributions are payable by the employee and his employer. The employees' share is to be deducted from his wages by the employer. The employee's contribution, is 2.25% of the wages while the employer's contribution is 5%. The amount of weekly contribution payable in respect of an employee, depends upon his average wages during that week, and contributions are payable in respect of every week for the whole or part of which an employee is employed and received wages.

The scheme functions under the administrative control of the Director, General Employees State Insurance Corporation, New Delhi. In Haryana, this scheme is executed through the Regional Director Employees State Insurance Corporation, Faridabad who inspects factories, collects contributions and arranges the payment of cash benefits.

The provision of medical benefit is the statutory responsibility of the State Government and facilities are to be given according to the standard laid down by the Employees State Insurance Corporation. As 7/8 of the expenditure incurred on medical care is contributed by the Employees State Insurance Corporation and the remaining 1/8 of the total expenditure is borne by the State Government. The expenditure on other cash benefits is to be met entirely out of the Employees State Insurance Fund and is arranged by the Regional Director.

The position of scheme in the district as on March 31, 1989 at the following centres is as follows:—

Sr. No.	Centres Name of the village	Date of Implemen- tation u/s(3)of the Act.	Date of extension u/s(5) of the Act.
1	2	3	4
1.	Sonipat (Garhi Brahman, Jamalpur Khurd, Kalupur)	19-2-61	30-3-75 and 25-4-76
2.	Contiguous area of Sonipat Village Lehrara Village Liwaspur	5-9-82	16-10-83
	Village Liwaspur	27-11-83	15-11-86
3.	Bahalagarh (Sonipat) Bahalgarh Road, Jamalpur	31-1-82	16-10-83
4.	Bhalgarh (Sonipat) Bahalgarh, Depalpur, Fazilpur, Ahmedpur	25-1-76	16-1-82
5.	Kundli, Rai and Rasoi (Sonipat) Jatheri, Badhmalik, Rai, Asamarpur, Kundli, Nangal Kalan, Nathupur	9-5-82	16-5-85
6.	Contiguous area of Kundli and Rai (Sonipat) Village Rasoi Village Sevli	11-9-83	16-5-85
7.	Murthal (Sonipat)Murthal	9-5-82	16-10-83

1	2	3	4
8	Ganaur (Sonipat) Ganaur	25-2-68	30-3-75 and 25-4-76

The number of employees in the 8 centres in the district was 18, 547 working in 179 units as on 31st March, 1989.

Free medical treatment to the insured persons and the members of their families is administered through U.S.I. dispensaries set up at each centre by the State Government besides there is an in-door ward with 12 beds in ESI dispensary, Sonipat.

SOCIAL WELFARE

The Government has the responsibility to uplift and rehabilitate the socially and economically backward sections of the society. Keeping in view this object, many schemes have been launched, a few of which are described below :—

Old-age pension.—The implementation of old age pension (liberalised) scheme introduced by Haryana Government headed by Chaudhri Devi Lal Ji with effect from 17th June, 1987 is taking place very speedily. The Department of Social Welfare had been granting old age pension earlier also ; but the erstwhile old age pension was at Rs. 60 p.m. per head. A lot of procedural formalities were required to be completed before the pension was sanctioned by the Directorate of Social Welfare. The applicants were required to produce a documentary proof in support of their age and monthly income from the medical /revenue authorities, and they had to run from pillar to post in order to get the entire procedural formalities completed. Under the old scheme, the pension was granted to only those applicants whose income was less than Rs. 50 per month and who were not supported by their close relatives i.e. sons/grand-sons/husband etc.

Under the new liberalised old age pension scheme, the procedure for grant of pension has been simplified to a great extent and the criteria for determining the eligibility of an applicant has also been liberalised. Now pension is granted at Rs. 100 per month to every senior citizen aged 65 years or above provided he or she is not an income tax payee and is not drawing any other service pension. The amount of old age pension is reduced by the amount of pension already drawn by a person in case of those persons who are drawing pension less than Rs. 100 per month from some other source if they are

eligible for old age pension otherwise. However, the persons already receiving old age pension under the earlier old age pension scheme at Rs. 60 per month will continue to receive pension at the old rates unless they are eligible to draw pension at enhanced rates of Rs. 100 per month under new scheme. Both husband and wife are separately eligible for pension.

It is, therefore, not a pension for the destitute but a gratitude paid to Senior Citizens of the State who have toiled for 65 years of their life in making Haryana one of the most prosperous States in the country.

The procedure for sanction and disbursement of pension has been greatly simplified. A Committee comprising of block Development and Panchayat Officer/Social Education and Panchayat Officer/Tahsildar/Naib Tahsildar and one more officer nominated by the Deputy Commissioner scrutinizes the eligibility of the applicants in the presence of the entire community in the village/town itself. Prior publicity about the date, time and venue of the visit of the Committee in the village/town is made. The Committee ascertains the age of the applicant taking into account all oral and documentary evidence and the physical appearance of the applicant. The Committee grants the pension on the spot except in disputed cases which are decided by a Committee at the district level to be chaired by the Deputy Commissioner.

The application forms are made available to persons desirous of obtaining the pension on the spot. The Committee assists those persons in filling up the application forms. The requirement of medical certificate as a proof of age of an applicant has been done away with. This would to a great extent eliminate the harassment of the applicants.

Now an applicant has not to get his application verified from any authority nor be required to arrange any medical certificate as the proof of his age. He is not required to run from pillar to post for the grant of his pension.

Since the scrutiny of those applicants who become eligible for grant of pension in a year is conducted in the month of April, May and June every year, hence a special campaign was launched for identification of new beneficiaries in the year, 1987-88.

Annual verification of the fact that a pensioner is alive is also conducted once in a year. The Scrutiny Committee has to conduct this verification during the campaign of identification of new beneficiaries. Similarly the Committee ascertains if any of the beneficiary under any of the pension scheme has become ineligible for pension. All the existing pensioners are required to present themselves before the Scrutiny Committee for this purpose.

As is clear from the above mentioned simplified and liberalised procedure of old age pension, Haryana State has the proud privilege of being the first State to introduce such a liberalised concept of old age pension which has given a sense of dignity and social security to the senior citizens of Haryana and also focussed a special attention in catering to the needs and requirements of the elderly persons in the evening of their lives. By the introduction of this scheme, the elders have got special recognition in their families which was deteriorating as a result of breaking-up of the joint families. Furthermore, by involving the local community, the Government has put trust in the general public in deciding the grant of pension. Under this revised system of sanction/distribution of old age pension it has been so streamlined to render chances of corruption minimal. Now the disbursement of the pension is done through the Commission Agents. In 1988-89, there were 56,717 old age pensioners in the district.

Pension schemes for the benefit of widows and handicapped persons are also in existence in the State from 1979-80 and 1981-82, respectively.

Pension to widows and Destitute Women.—Earlier the widow/destitute pension was to be granted to only those women, aged less than 50 years, who were deprived of financial support from their husbands, because of desertion or absence or physical/mental disability of the husbands and whose close relatives such as parents, sons and grand sons were not supporting them. The rate of pension was Rs. 50 per month. The income ceiling to determine the eligibility of applicant for the grant of pension has been increased from Rs. 50 per month to Rs. 200 per month with effect from 1st April, 1989. The rate of pension has also been enhanced from Rs. 50 per month to Rs. 75 per month per head with effect from 1st April, 1989.

Earlier women receiving widow/destitute pension were covered under the old age pension scheme after attaining the age of 50 years. However, with the introduction of liberalised old age pension scheme, the qualifying age for old age pension was relaxed to 65 years. Therefore, with effect from 21st April, 1988, women in age group of 18—65 years have been made eligible for grant of widow pension.

The procedure for grant of widow pension has also been simplified on the pattern of old age pension (Liberalised). Now the Committee for Scrutiny for old age pension also scrutinises the eligibility of the applicants for widow pension during their visit to the village/towns for grant of old age pension. Every year the scrutiny Committee is required to visit the village/towns for grant of widow pension to fresh applicants. Pension to such pensioners is sanctioned with effect from 1st of July. This Committee will in future also verify the continued eligibility of the existing pensioners for widow pension.

Pension to Handicapped Persons.—Similarly the handicapped pension is granted to handicapped persons of Haryana domicile in the age group of 21¹ to 65 years provided that they are without any means of subsistence and can not do any work to earn their livelihood and have been residing in Haryana State for more than 3 years at the time of making application for grant of handicapped pension and are deprived of financial support from their close relatives such as sons, husband/wife and monthly income from all sources is less than Rs. 200 per month. After the attainment of 65 years of age the beneficiaries are transferred to old age pension. The income ceiling to determine the eligibility of applicant for grant of pension has been increased from Rs. 50 per month to Rs. 200 per month with effect from 1st April, 1989. The rate of pension has also been increased from Rs. 50 per month to Rs. 75 per month per head with effect from 1st April, 1989.

The procedure for grant of pension has also been further simplified on the pattern of old age pension (Liberalised). Now the Committee for scrutiny for old age pension also scrutinises the eligibility of applicants for handicapped pension during their visit to the villages/towns for grant of old age pension. The applicant has to produce a certificate from Government doctor as a proof of his disability which is required to be 70% at least. C.M.O. is required to hold medical camps to facilitate the issue of medical certificates to applicants.

Committee for scrutiny for grant of handicapped pension is sent to all the villages/towns during the months of April, May and June under the new procedure.

Scholarship to the Physically handicapped.—The economic protection in the form of scholarship is provided to the physically handicapped children, provided they belong to lower income families, studying up to middle class. In April, 1977, Government extended this facility to such students, of higher studies also. The rate of scholarship ranges between Rs. 60 to Rs. 340. During the year, 1988-89, 441 students were given scholarship in the district.

Nutrition Programme.—This is a centrally sponsored scheme which was introduced in 1970-71. Under this scheme, nutrition was provided only to the children less than 3 years of age living in urban slums. From 1971-72, entire group of pre-school children below six years of age and expectant mothers in the urban areas were also brought under the purview of the scheme.²

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1. In order to grant pension to every handicapped person, the Government has now decided to do away with the condition of lower age limit. However the other conditions will remain unchanged
 2. Nutrition scheme stands abolished in 1988-89.

ADVANCEMENT OF BACKWARD CLASSES

The Scheduled Castes, Vimukt Jatis and other Backward Classes residing in the district are as under :—

Scheduled Castes	Vimukt Jatis	Backward Classes
Ad Dharmi	Bangali	Jhinwar
Bangali	Barar	Nai (Kuleen Brahman)
Barar, Burar or Berar	Bauria	Kumhar
Batwal	Gandhila	Khati (Jangra Brahman)
Bauria or Bawaria	Sansi	Lohar
Bazigar	Kuchband	Jogi Nath
Balmiki, Chura or Bhangi	Rachhbana	Gawaria (Banjara)
Banjara	Aharia or Aheri	Dhobi
Chamar, Jatia Chamar, Rehgar, Raigar, Ramdasi or Ravidasi	Singhikat	Baragi
Dagi	Dhe	Bhat
Dhanak		Dakut
Dumna, Mahasha or Doom		Chhipi, Tank or Darzi
Kabir Panthi or Dumna		Naiks, Aheria or Aheri
Khatik		Bharbhunja
Kori or Koli		Manihar
Mazhabi		Bagria
Nat		
Od		
Pasi		
Perna		
Sansi, Bhedkut or Manesh		
Sapela		
Sarera		
Sikligar		
Sirkiband		

The different professions adopted by these classes are almost traditional. These include agricultural labour, sweeping, scavenging, shoe-making or shoe repairing, basket and rope-making, *chhaj* and *sirki*-making, animal rearing, snake-charming, hair-cutting, iron-smithy, washing, tailoring, dyeing, etc.

Prior to Independence, the Scheduled Castes suffered from many disabilities in the district as in the rest of the country. The untouchability prevailed among Hindus to a large extent in spite of the efforts of social reformers. The social disabilities were accompanied by wide economic and cultural disabilities, each reinforcing the other in the caste-ridden and stratified society. The opportunities for betterment were practically denied. Backward Classes did not suffer these disabilities to the same extent. The Government has implemented the following schemes to uplift the Backward Classes.

Scheme for Welfare of Harijan Widows.—Started in 1974-75, the scheme provides the means of livelihood to the widows who have no sources of income. It enables them to stand on their feet. Under the scheme, free training is imparted to them in cutting, sewing and embroidery. Besides, the expenditure on the raw material required for the training is also borne by the Government. The Harijan trainees get stipend of Rs. 100 each per month during the course of one year training. After training, each trainee is supplied with a new machine so that she may earn her livelihood. Till March 31, 1989, 145 widows were trained and each one of them was given a sewing machine to earn her living.

Subsidy for House-Sites.—Congested houses in Harijan *bastis* posed a serious problem. Although, the Punjab Village Common Lands (Registration) Act, 1961 conferred upon Harijans, the proprietary rights over the sites under their houses, yet the problem was not solved. Under the centrally-sponsored scheme introduced in 1958-59, a sum of Rs. 200 was granted as a subsidy to each deserving and needy member of Scheduled Castes and Vimukt Jatis, for the purchase of house sites. The scheme was, however, dropped in 1967-68 as the amount was considered meagre to purchase a plot. Later, in 1968-69, this facility for house sites was again made available. This time an amount of Rs. 1,000 as loan was permissible to the needy persons of the above castes. But this scheme was again withdrawn due to rise in the price of land. Under a special programme, Harijans are now given a site of 100 square yards free of cost.

Subsidy for the Construction of New Houses.—A scheme for the grant of subsidy of Rs. 900 for construction of a new house was started in 1963-64. The amount was raised from Rs. 900 to Rs. 2,000 in 1974-75 and Rs. 2,000 to Rs. 5,000 in 1988-89. This facility improved their standard of living to some extent. During the year 1988-89, a sum of Rs. 2,40,000 was disbursed to 48 beneficiaries.

Drinking Water Amenities.—Grants are given to Harijans in rural as well as in urban areas for the provision of drinking water facilities. The wells and hand-pumps constructed/installed as such are open to the general public also. This scheme was introduced during 1955-56. A sum of Rs. 1,54,440 was disbursed as subsidy for digging 112 wells, for the repair of 268 wells, 18 hand pumps and old wells in 230 villages of the district as on March 31, 1989.

Award of Scholarship and Re-imbursement of Fees.—One of the important schemes aiming at the improvement of the educational standards of the members of these classes, relates to the award of scholarship and re-imbursement fees to such students. The details of such schemes are given in the chapter 'Education and Culture'.

Facilities for Industrial Training.—To improve the economic condition of Scheduled Castes/Backward Classes, their young men are trained as skilled workers in various trades in different industrial training institutions. During the course, a scholarship of Rs. 45 per month is given to the students of Scheduled Castes. This amount was increased to Rs. 75 on December, 27, 1982. The students residing in hostels are given a scholarship of Rs. 100 per month. By March 31, 1989, a large number of students were given stipends under the scheme.

Grant of Interest-Free Loan.—This scheme was introduced in 1958-59. For lack of finances, professionally trained members of the Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes find it difficult to run the professions of law, medicine, engineering architecture. Besides above categories of persons, there are other members who need money for expanding or establishing an industry, business or trade such as shoe making, cattle-breeding, wood-work, weaving, sewing, etc. They are, therefore, helped with loans free of interest. These loans are recovered in 20 half-yearly instalments and the first recovery starts after lapse of four years. The maximum amount which is now granted to the borrower is Rs. 10,000. During 1989, a sum of Rs. 40,000 was advanced to 20 persons of the district.

Subsidy/Loan for the purchase of Agricultural Land.—To help the deserving landless members of Scheduled Castes and Vimukt Jatis, the scheme as it existed before 1969-70, provided a subsidy of Rs. 2,000 to an individual who in turn had to contribute the remaining amount to purchase not less than 5 acres of land costing not less than Rs. 900 per acre. A person settled in such a way was given a subsidy of Rs. 500 for the construction of a house or well on the land purchased with the help of the Government. A sum of Rs. 360 as subsidy to meet the expenses on the stamp duty for registration of such land was also provided in each case.

The subsidy oriented land purchase scheme was remodelled into a loan scheme with effect from 1969-70. Under this scheme, a provision for the loan

of Rs. 4,500 was made and the area of land to be purchased was reduced from 5 acres to 3 acres. In view of the higher price of agricultural land, the amount of loan was raised from Rs. 4,500 to Rs. 6,000 during the year 1972-73. The quantum of subsidy amount of Rs. 360 for the purchase of agricultural implements was enhanced to Rs. 500 from 1974-75. Besides, a person was helped with an amount of Rs. 500 as subsidy for digging a well. The limit of this amount was also raised to Rs. 1,000 in 1974-75.

This facility of loan/subsidy for the purchase of land by the Harijans was withdrawn in 1974-75 and under the Haryana Ceiling on Land Holdings Act, 1972, the members of Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes are entitled to the allotment of the surplus area declared under the above Act.

Legal Assistance.—In order to protect the interest of the members of the Scheduled Castes and Vimukt Jatis in criminal, civil and revenue cases and to safeguard their rights against the landlords and others, the scheme of providing legal assistance to them has been in operation since 1958-59. The implementation of this scheme is under the charge of Deputy Commissioner who is assisted by the District Welfare Officer. The total number of beneficiaries under this scheme is 21.

Subsidy for the Purchase of Pigs.—This scheme was started in 1959-60. The deserving and needy members of the Scheduled Castes were given a subsidy of Rs. 800 each for the purchase of pigs. This scheme was dropped in 1979-80.

Subsidy for Construction/Repair of Chaupals.—The members of Scheduled Castes had no common place for their get-together and the celebrations of the marriages of their children. In order to remove this difficulty, the Government introduced this scheme in 1970-71. In 1989, there was a provision of Rs. 25,000 for the construction of new *Chaupal*. During 1988-89, the total amount of grants, Rs. 32,32,100 was given to 645 *chaupals* for construction/repair.

Haryana Harijan Kalyan Nigam Ltd.—The Nigam was established by the State Government at Chandigarh in 1971 with the sole objective of giving financial assistance to Harijans for their socio-economic uplift.

The Nigam advances loans at the moderate rate of interest for various trades/professions, such as dairy-farming, leatherwork, sheep and goats, setting up of flour mill, brick-kiln, etc. These loans are recoverable in easy instalments. Since 1973, all loans are recoverable in 10 equated half-yearly instalments, starting one year after the receipt of the loan.

A loan upto Rs. 10,000 is given to an individual and up to Rs. 50,000 to the registered partnership firms and co-operative societies comprising members of Scheduled Castes only. During the year 1982-83, tie up arrangements have been made with the banks. Under this arrangement 25% margin money is given by the Nigam and rest 75% by the banks as loan. The loans advanced by Haryana Harijan Kalyan Nigam to the members of Scheduled Castes in the district for various trades/professions during 1979-80 to 1988-89, are detailed below:—

Year	Agri- culture & Allied Sector	Industrial Sector	Profession- al & Self Emp. Sector	Trade & Business Sector	Total (Rs. in lacs)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1979-80	2.13	0.54	..	0.61	3.28
1980-81	1.94	0.38	..	0.98	3.30
1981-82	4.39	0.75	..	1.49	6.63
1982-83	2.17	0.03	..	0.49	2.69
1983-84	35.27	1.93	..	13.98	51.18
1984-85	35.57	1.85	9.81	8.25	55.48
1985-86	44.33	4.65	19.90	13.36	82.24
1986-87	53.64	9.45	6.62	25.93	95.64
1987-88	29.04	15.47	8.10	25.92	78.53
1988-89	22.33	5.79	4.40	24.74	57.26

Social Equality.—The Directive Principles of State policy lay down that the State shall promote with special care the educational and economic interests of the weaker sections of the people, and of the Scheduled Castes in particular, and shall protect them from social injustice and all forms of exploitation. The Fundamental Rights embodied in the Constitution enjoin abolition of untouchability and forbid its practice in any form. The enforcement of any disability arising out of 'untouchability' has been made penal by the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955. To ensure equality of opportunity for all citizens in matters relating to employment, it has been laid down that no

citizen shall, on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth, residence, be ineligible for, or discriminated against, in respect of any employment or office under the State.

Despite these constitutional guarantees, untouchability is practised in one form or the other, especially in rural areas. A special programme for removal of untouchability is carried on through community centres and *balwadis*. These are started at places where there is large concentration of members of the Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes. During 1988-89, the community centres were running at the village Nathupur and Chirana.

PROHIBITION

Experiment in prohibition was conducted in the area of the then Rohtak district by the first Post-Independence Government of the erstwhile Punjab during 1948. But it could not meet with success. Unfortunately, alcoholic consumption, instead of going down, increased. There were two such major sources. First, liquor was transported from the neighbouring wet districts of the State; as also from adjoining districts of Uttar Pradesh and the Union Territory of Delhi. The trade in liquor from this source was carried on by the licence holders of the neighbouring districts who transported wine from the distilleries to their vends and shops situated within a radius of 8 kilometres of the boundaries of the district. Secondly, illicit distillation supply was made by the bootleggers who carried on their nefarious trade in the villages to which approach roads were not available.

The experiment thus created an ugly law and order problem. The State Government lost excise revenue on one hand and had to spend huge amounts on enforcement of the prohibition programme on the other. The State then faced with limited financial resources, could hardly afford luxury and so the policy of prohibition was scrapped from April 1, 1976.

A programme of partial prohibition of observing two dry days, i.e. Monday and Tuesday in a week besides other closed days i.e. Independence Day-15th August, Acharya Vinoba Bhave's birth-day-11th September, and Mahatama Gandhi's birthday-2nd October, was introduced on April 1, 1969. The intention was to increase the number of dry days gradually in each successive year and thus achieve complete prohibition within three or four years.

The policy of two dry days in a week did not bring about the desired results. It also encouraged illicit distillation. The licence-holders sometimes indulged in malpractice of selling on prohibited days. The whole situation was revived again and from April, 1, 1970, it was decided to enforce the policy of observing three closed days in a year. However, since April 1, 1973, every 7th day of the month is also observed as a closed day. This has

been done as a check for labour class against purchasing liquor on the day when they get their pay packets. Further, no liquor shop is to be opened within a distance of 50 metres from any educational institution or bus-stand or a place of public worship or public entertainment and within 100 metres of a school or a college for women. The maximum limit of keeping only one bottle of country liquor in individual possession introduced on April, 1969, is allowed to continue.

The consumption of exciseable articles in the district during 1978-79 to 1988-89 was as follows:—

Year	Country liquor (Proof litres)	Foreign liquor (Proof litres)	Wine and Beer (Bulk Litres)
1978-79	1,98,683	85,561	1,63,998
1979-80	2,36,000	34,493	89,247
1980-81	3,39,838	1,28,919	2,61,253
1981-82	4,04,265	2,58,879	2,59,385
1982-83	4,61,750	2,41,056	3,91,095
1983-84	5,23,000	7,47,817	5,32,527
1984-85	6,10,000	7,81,137	5,50,000
1985-86	6,97,500	10,07,072	11,02,531
1986-87	6,75,000	10,43,552	10,03,472
1987-88	8,25,000	8,96,252	6,80,490
1988-89	9,49,000	9,04,508	8,01,186

The oral consumption of opium for the general public was prohibited on April 1, 1959. The opium is only allowed to the registered addicts. There was no sale of bhang after April 1, 1965, due to total prohibition of its oral consumption.

CHAPTER XVIII

PUBLIC LIFE AND VOLUNTARY SOCIAL SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

REPRESENTATION OF THE DISTRICT IN THE STATE AND UNION LEGISLATURES

So far (Up to March 31, 1989), all the general elections to the Lok Sabha were conducted smoothly in the Sonipat area. Similarly, all the general and mid-term elections to the Vidhan Sabha were equally peaceful, free and fair.

Lok Sabha.—During the First General Elections, 1952, the area comprising the present Sonipat district substantially formed part of two Parliamentary Constituencies; Rohtak and Jhajjar/Rowari. Both the constituencies returned the Congress candidates. The details of the constituencies are given in the Table XXIV of Appendix.

During the Second General Elections, 1957, the district remained tagged with the two Parliamentary Constituencies, Rohtak and Jhajjar, the former included a part of Jind tahsil while the latter that of Gurgaon district. With the merger of erstwhile Pepsu and Punjab, the area and electorate involved were much larger, while the delimitation of constituencies was effected only a few weeks before the elections leaving the minimum time for the extensive arrangements that were necessary.

The details of the constituencies and the valid votes polled are given in the Table XXV of Appendix. A Congress candidate was elected from Rohtak constituency and a Communist candidate from Jhajjar. Besides Independents, the Indian National Congress, the Communist Party of India, the Bhartiya Jan Sangh and the All-India Scheduled Castes Federation took part in the Second General Elections, 1957.

As in the previous elections, the Sonipat area remained a part of two constituencies, viz., Rohtak and Jhajjar for Lok Sabha during the Third General Elections, 1962. Ganaur, Sonipat and Gohana Assembly Constituencies formed part of the Rohtak Parliamentary Constituency while Rai Assembly Constituency was included in the Jhajjar Parliamentary Constituency.

Besides Independents, the Indian National Congress, the Bhartiya Jan Sangh, Haryana Lok Samiti, the Republican and Bhartiya Pragatisheel political parties took part in the elections. The Jan Sangh and the Haryana Lok Samiti candidates were returned from Rohtak and Jhajjar constituencies, respectively.

There were as usual two constituencies viz., Rohtak and Jhajjar for the Lok Sabha during the Fourth General Elections, 1967. The extent of these constituencies covered the boundaries of the present district. Baroda and Gohana Assembly Constituencies formed part of Rohtak Parliamentary Constituency while Kailana, Sonipat, Rai and Rohat Assembly Constituencies were included in the Jhajjar Parliamentary Constituency.

Besides Independents, there were candidates of the Indian National Congress, Bhartiya Jan Sangh, Socialist Party, Communist Party of India and Communist Party of India (Marxist). The Congress candidates were returned from both Constituencies.

Fifth General Elections, 1971.—Lok Sabha was dissolved and Fifth General Elections were held in March, 1971, about a year ahead of the normal schedule.

During the fourth General Elections to Lok Sabha, the then district remained part of two Parliamentary constituencies; Rohtak and Jhajjar. During the 5th General Elections, the Sonipat district remained tagged to above two parliamentary constituencies; Rohtak and Jhajjar. Baroda and Gohana Assembly Constituencies formed part of Rohtak Parliamentary Constituency while Kailana, Sonipat, Rai and Rohat Assembly Constituencies were included in the Jhajjar Parliamentary Constituency. The details about the Rohtak Parliamentary Constituency were as follows:

Name of the constituency	Party affiliations	Votes polled	Percentage
Rohtak Parliamentary Constituency	Jan Sangh	1,43,409	44.46
	Congress	1,38,738	43.01
	Independent	16,550	5.13
	Independent	11,315	3.51
	Independent	5,771	1.79
	Independent	3,692	1.14
	Socialist Party	1,592	0.49
	Independent	1,470	0.46

The Jan Sangh candidate won this seat. Besides the candidates of Indian National Congress and Socialist Party, there were many independents.

The Jhajjar Parliamentary constituency returned the candidate of Congress Party (R). The details about contestants and party affiliations were as under:-

Name of the Constituency	Party affiliations	Votes polled	Percentage
Jhajjar Parliamentary Constituency	Indian National Congress (R)	1,89,860	52.35
	Congress (O)	1,43,245	39.50
	Socialist Unity Centre of India ..	15,985	4.41
	Republican Party of India	13,564	3.74

Sixth General Elections, 1977.—The General Elections were held in March, 1977 after six-year duration instead of 5-year term. The Sonipat Parliamentary Constituency mainly included Sonipat district, 2 Assembly segments of Jind district and one Assembly segment of Rohtak district. The extent of the constituencies delimited during the Fifth General Elections was slightly changed. It comprised Baroda, Gohana, Kailana, Sonipat, Rai and Rohat Assembly Constituencies of Sonipat district; Safidon and Julana Assembly segments of Jind district and Bahadurgarh Assembly segment of Rohtak district.

During the elections, a candidate of newly created Janata Party won the seat with a thumping majority. Party-wise contestants, number and percentage of valid votes polled by each party were as follows :—

Party/Independents	Contestants	Valid votes polled	Percentage
Janata Party	1	3,46,900	80.95
Indian National Congress	1	66,677	15.56
Independents	3	14,947	03.49
Total :	5	4,28,524	100.00

Mid-term Elections to Lok Sabha, 1980.—The Lok Sabha was dissolved and mid-term elections were held in January, 1980. No Change was made in the limit and number of constituency of the district. During the elections, a candidate of the Janata (S) party won the seat. The party-wise contestants, number and percentage of valid votes polled by each party were as follows:—

Party/Independents	Contestants	Valid votes polled	Percentage
Janata(s)	1	2,55,363	54.88
Congress (I)	1	97,572	20.97
Janata Party	1	87,344	18.77
Indian National Congress(U)	1	2,144	0.46
Independents	7	22,849	4.92
Total :	11	4,65,269	100.00

Bye Election to Lok Sabha from Sonipat Parliamentary Constituency, 1983 :—

Due to the resignation of the member elected from Sonipat Parliamentary Constituency, the bye election to fill the seat in the Lok Sabha was held in December, 1983. During this election Congress party won the seat. The party-wise contestants, number and percentage of valid votes polled by each party were as follows :—

Party	Contestants	Valid votes polled	Percentage
Congress (I)	1	1,60,244	40.60
Janata Party	1	1,47,877	37.47
Lok Dal	1	70,133	17.77
Independents	11	16,419	64.19
Total :	14	3,94,673	100.00

General Elections to Eighth Lok Sabha, 1984.—These General Elections were held in December, 1984 after usual five-year term. The Sonipat Constituency extended its extent up to Sonipat district and two Assembly segments of Jind district and one Assembly segment of Rohtak district. The Constituency comprised Baroda, Gohana, Kailana, Sonipat, Rai, Rohat (Sonipat) district, Julana, Safidon (Jind district) and Bahadurgarh Assembly segment of Rohtak district. During these elections the Congress (I) won the seat. The part-wise contestants, number and percentage of valid votes polled by each party were as follows :—

Party/Independents	Contestants	Valid votes polled	Percentage
Congress (I)	1	2,43,491	48.54
Lok Dal	1	2,40,550	47.95
Janata Party	1	3,920	0.78
Independents	14	13,697	2.73
Total :	17	5,01,658	100.00

VIDHAN SABHA (LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY)

First General Elections, 1952.—During the First General Elections, 1952, the present Sonipat district was part of Rohtak district. The Sonipat area represented in the elections through the Assembly Constituencies of Rai, Sonipat, Ganaur, all Single-member, while Gohana was a double-member constituency. The extent of constituencies is given in Table XXVI of Appendix. The constituency-wise seats, total number of electors, number of electors who voted and the percentage were as follows :—

Name of Constituency	No. of seats	Total number of electors	No. of electors who voted	Percentage of col. 3 to col. 4
1	2	3	4	5
Rai	1	47,634	35,794	75.12
Sonipat	1	46,968	32,560	69.32
Ganaur	1	54,612	42,693	78.15
Gohana	2	1,06,662	1,33,394	62.53

All the above five seats were won by the candidates of the Indian National Congress. Besides Independents, the other political parties which took part in the electoral contest were the Zamindara Party, the Bhartiya Jan Sangh and the Socialist Party.

Punjab Legislative Council.—Under section 10 reads with the Third Schedule of the representation of the People Act, 1950, the allocation of 40 seats in the Punjab Legislative Council was made as follows:—

- (i) 13 seats to be filled by election by the members of the Legislative Assembly ;
- (ii) 13 seats to be filled by election by the Local Authorities constituencies ;
- (iii) 3 seats to be filled by election by the Graduates' constituency ;
- (iv) 3 seats to be filled by election by the Teachers' constituency; and
- (v) 8 seats to be filled by nomination by the Governor.

One member from Sonipat was nominated to the Council by the Governor.

Second General Elections, 1957.—As in the First General Elections, there were 9 Constituencies comprising 11 seats in the then Rohtak district. Out of the nine constituencies, Ganaur, Sonipat and Rai-single-member constituencies and Gohana-double member Constituency fell in the Sonipat area. However, the details covering the total number of seats, percentage and valid votes polled are given in the table below:—

Name of constituency	Total number of seats	No. of electors	Total number of votes	Valid votes polled	Percentage of col. No. 4 and col. No. 5
1	2	3	4	5	6
Ganaur	1	59,551	59,551	45,560	76.50
Sonipat	1	50,304	50,304	32,249	64.11
Gohana	2	1,07,030	2,14,060	1,41,609	66.15
Rai	1	53,296	53,296	39,536	74.18

The single member constituencies of Ganaur and Sonipat returned the Congress candidates while the Rai seat was won by the Communist candidate. The two-member constituency of Gohana returned 2 Independents, one of them a Scheduled Castes. The political parties viz. the Indian National Congress, the Communist Party of India, the Bhartiya Jan Sangh fielded their candidates. There were other candidates without party affiliations.

Third General Elections, 1962.—Consequent upon the splitting up of all double-member constituencies in the country by the Election Commission, the double-member constituency of Gohana was also split up. Consequently, Meham¹ Constituency (reserved) was created out of Gohana constituency.

Besides Independents, 6 political parties fielded their candidates. The constituency-wise details in the Sonipat area were as follows:—

Name of constituency	Total No. of electors	No. of voters who voted	Party affiliations	No. of valid votes polled by each candidate	Valid votes polled in the constituency
1	2	3	4	5	6
Ganaur	.. 71,803	50,632	Jang Sangh	4,225	48,058
			Independent	27,320	
			Indian National Congress	13,688	
			Independent	1,079	
			Independent	1,746	
Sonipat	.. 63,133	44,325	Jan Sangh	17,986	42,411
			Indian National Congress	15,910	
			Independent	3,616	
			Independent	3,353	
			Independent	960	
			Independent	586	

1. Now it is in the Rohtak district.

1	2	3	4	5	6
Rai	64,354	46,514	Indian National Congress	17,071	44,824
			Haryana Lok Samiti	7,111	
			Bhartiya Pragatishheel	7,069	
			Independent	5,724	
			Independent	4,208	
			Independent	1,703	
			Independent	1,018	
			Independent	723	
			Independent	197	
Gohana ¹	63,233	46,361	Haryana Lok Samiti	15,029	43,760
			Bhartiya Jan Sangh	13,555	
			Indian National Congress	10,268	
			Swantantra	2,952	
			Independent	840	
			Independent	613	
			Independent	503	

Rai constituency returned the Congress candidate while the Gohana constituency was won by the candidate of the Haryana Lok Samiti. Ganaur constituency voted for an Independent candidate and Sonipat seat was won by the Jan Sangh candidate.

1. Baroda *zaf* in Baroda *thana* in Gohana tahsil was included in Meham constituency and Ahutana *zaf* in Baroda *thana* was included in Kalanaur constituency.

Fourth General Elections, 1967.—By virtue of the Punjab Re-organization, Act, 1966, the Punjab was re-organized and the new State of Haryana with unicameral legislature was created on November 1, 1966.

Out of 15 constituencies of the then Rohtak district, the Sonipat area had 6 constituencies, i.e. Baroda (S.C.), Gohana, Kailana, Sonipat, Rai and Rohat (S.C.)¹ Their details, e.g. the number of electors who voted, the number of votes polled by the candidates and party affiliations are given below:—

Constituency	No of total electors	Electors who voted	Party affiliations	No of valid votes polled by each candidate	Total No of valid votes polled in the constituency
1	2	3	4	5	6
Baroda (S.C.)	55,864	38,275	Congress	13,164	36,322
			Bhartiya Jan Sangh	11,637	
			Independent	2,168	
			Independent	1,896	
			Republican	1,700	
			Samyakta-Socialist	1,637	
			Independent	1,584	
			Independent	1,010	
			Independent	779	
			Independent	632	
Gohana	51,803	39,831	Congress	19,898	38,785
			Independent	11,901	

1. S.C. means that these seat is for the Scheduled Castes.

1	2	3	4	5	6
			Bhartiya Jan Sangh	5,883	
			Independent	370	
			Independent	317	
			Independent	210	
			Independent	109	
			Independent	97	
Kailin	51,395	40,309	Congress	18,847	38,793
			Independent	17,436	
			Independent	1,126	
			Communist	807	
			Independent	463	
			Independent	119	
Sonipat	54,589	40,627	Congress	17,585	38,433
			Bhartiya Jan Sangh	16,777	
			Communist	12,906	
			Republican	1,162	
Rai	44,387	38,659	Congress	20,115	37,568
			Independent	16,206	
			Independent	785	
			Independent	462	
Rohat (S.C.)	48,848	32,749	Independent	13,001	31,069
			Congress	11,220	
			Independent	3,896	

1	2	3	4	5	6
			Independent	703	
			Bhartiya Jan Sangh	816	
			Communist	299	
			Independent	296	
			Independent	272	
			Independent	253	
			Samyukta Socialists	185	
			Communist(M)	178	
			Independent	148	

The constituencies of Baroda, Gohana, Kailana, Sonipat and Rai returned the Congress candidates and Rohat voted for an Independent candidate.

Mid-term Elections, 1968.—Haryana Vidhan Sabha was dissolved and President's rule was enforced on November 21, 1967. The mid-term elections were held during May, 1968. There were 6 Assembly Constituencies in the Sonipat area. The constituency-wise details regarding seats won and party affiliations are given below:—

Constituency	No. of elected members	Party affiliations
Baroda (S C.)	1	Vishal Haryana
Gohana	1	Congress
Kailana	1	Vishal Haryana
Sonipat	1	Jan Sangh
Rai	1	Congress
Rohat (S.C.)	1	Congress

Fifth General Elections, 1972.—Haryana Vidhan Sabha was again dissolved in January, 1972 and elections were held in March, 1972. The Sonipat area had 6 Assembly constituencies and their details are as follows:—

Constituency	No. of elected members	Party affiliations
Baroda (S.C.)	1	Congress (R)
Gohana	1	Congress (R)
Kailana	1	Independent
Sonipat	1	Congress (R)
Rai	1	Congress (O)
Rohat (S.C.)	1	Congress (O)

The constituencies of Baroda and Rohat were reserved for the candidates of Scheduled Castes.

Sixth General Elections, 1977.—Sixth General Elections to Haryana Vidhan Sabha were held in June, 1977. There were 6 Assembly constituencies in the Sonipat district. The constituencies of Baroda (S.C.), Kailana, Sonipat, Rai and Rohat were captured by the candidates of the newly created Janata Party while the remaining Gohana seat was won by an Independent. The Congress party fielded six candidates who could not win any seat. Likewise the Vishal Haryana Party also fielded 5 candidates but none could win any seat. The number of contestants, number and percentage of valid votes polled by each party were:

Party/Independent	Contestants	Valid Votes polled	Percentage
Janata Party	6	1,22,379	47.09
Congress	6	49,327	18.98
Vishal Haryana Party	5	28,702	11.04
Communist Party of India	2	1,705	0.66
Independents	23	57,773	22.23
Total;	42	2,59,886	100.00

Seventh General Elections, 1982.—There was no change in the number of constituencies in the district. The seats of Baroda (S.C.), Gohana and Rohat were won by the candidates of Lok Dal and the Sonipat seat was captured by the Bhartiya Janata Party. Rai seat was won by the candidate of Congress (I) and Kailana constituency returned an Independent candidate. The number of contestants, number and percentage of valid votes polled by each party were as follows :—

Party/Independent	Contestants	Valid votes polled	Percentage
Lok Dal	5	1,14,489	34·07
Congress (I)	6	1,20,564	35·88
Bhartiya Janta Party	1	24,890	7·41
Janata Party	2	1,758	0·52
Communist Party of India	1	1,954	0·58
C.P.I. (M)	1	5,762	1·71
Independents	40	66,638	19·83
Total :	56	3,36,045	100·00

Eighth General Elections, 1987.—There was no change in the number of Constituencies in the Sonipat district. The seats of Baroda (S.C.), Gohana, Kailana, Rai and Rohat were won by the candidates of Lok Dal and the Sonipat seat was won by the Bhartiya Janata Party. The Congress (I) party fielded six candidates who could not win any seat. The number of contestants, number and percentage of valid votes polled by each party were as follows :—

Party/Independent	Contestants	Valid votes polled	Percentage
1	2	3	4
Lok Dal	5	1,96,035	48·58
Indian National Congress (I)	6	94,332	23·38
Bhartiya Janata Party	1	34,962	8·67
Lok Dal (A)	4	13,249	3·28
Janata Party	2	4,911	1·21
Congress (J) Bhalla Group	2	402	0·09
Independents	54	59,678	14·79
Total :	74	4,03,569	100·00

POLITICAL PARTIES AND ORGANISATIONS

There is no political party of significance in the district which may be regarded as purely local in character. The major ones are units of all India parties. The political parties with their success and failures in the Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha elections held from 1952, are described separately.

Indian National Congress.—As already described that before creating Sonipat Parliamentary Constituency, this area substantially remained tagged with two Parliamentary Constituencies (Rohtak and Jhajjar).

The party was founded in this region in 1917. It is on the political scene in the area since Independence. It bagged both seats from the Rohtak and Jhajjar Parliamentary Constituencies in the First General Elections, 1952 while in the Second General Elections, 1957, it captured only the seat of Rohtak for Lok Sabha. In the 3rd General Elections, 1962, the Congress party lost both Lok Sabha seats. In the Fourth General Elections, 1967, it again captured both seats for Lok Sabha. Before the fifth General Elections to Lok Sabha, 1971, the Congress Party was split into two parts ; Congress (Ruling) and the Congress (Organisation).

During the Mid-term Elections, 1980 to Lok Sabha, the Congress Party came to be known as Congress (I). During the Sixth General Elections, 1977, it lost Sonipat Parliamentary seat.

It again lost this seat in the Mid-term Elections to Lok Sabha, 1980. The bye-election to Lok Sabha held in 1983 was also won by the Congress (I). The Sonipat Parliamentary seat was again retained by the Congress (I) at the Eighth General Elections held in 1984.

During the First General Elections to Vidhan Sabha in 1952, all the Assembly seats falling in the district were captured by the Congress while in the Second General Elections, 1957, only two constituencies (Ganaur and Sonipat) returned the Congress candidates. During the Third General Elections, 1962, only Rai constituency voted in favour of Congress candidate. But after the formation of Haryana as a separate State, the Congress wrested five Assembly constituencies falling in the Sonipat area during the Fourth General Elections, 1967. In the Mid-term Elections to Vidhan Sabha in 1968, the Congress captured three seats out of six. In the General Elections to Haryana Vidhan Sabha, 1972, three seats were bagged by Congress (Ruling) while Rai and Rohat seats were captured by the candidates of Congress (Organization). It has already been indicated that Congress party was split into two parts. During the Vidhan Sabha Elections of 1977, the Congress party fielded six candidates but none won any seat but the Congress (I) maintained its political prestige by winning only one seat (Rai Assembly seat) in the General Elections

of 1982. During the Assembly elections of 1987, the Congress (I) fielded six candidates but none won any seat.

Bhartiya Janata Party¹.—This party was formed in the area in May, 1951. Of the two seats for Lok Sabha for the Third General Elections, 1962 Rohtak seat including Sonipat area was won by a Jan Sangh candidate.

During the Vidhan Sabha Elections of 1952 and 1957, this party could not win even a single seat in the Sonipat area but during the Third General Elections, 1962, it won Sonipat Assembly seat. But at the time of Fourth General Elections, it could not win even a single seat, though there were 6 Assembly constituencies in the then Sonipat district. At the time of Mid-Term Elections, 1968 to Haryana Vidhan Sabha, it won Sonipat Assembly seat but no seat was won in the General Elections, 1972.

After its merger with Janata Party, it lost its existence at the time of General Elections 1977. But, at the time of Vidhan Sabha Elections, 1982, Bhartiya Janata Party contested the Elections and Sonipat Assembly seat was won by it. During the General Elections (Assembly) of 1987, Bhartiya Janata Party won the Sonipat seat.

Janata Party.—This party came into existence at the time of General Elections, 1977. The constituent parties forming the Janata Party were : Congress (Organisation), Bhartiya Jan Sangh, Bhartiya Lok Dal and Socialist Party.

The Sonipat Parliamentary seat was won by the Janata candidate with thumping majority during the elections of 1977. But it failed to achieve success in elections to Lok Sabha held in 1980, by-election, 1983 and 1984.

During the Haryana Vidhan Sabha elections, 1977, there were six Assembly constituencies in the Sonipat district. The constituencies of Baroda (Reserved), Kailana, Sonipat, Rai and Rohat were captured by the Janata Party. In the Assembly election of 1982 and 1987, it could not get any seat.

Lok Dal².—It appeared in the district at the time of Vidhan Sabha (General) Elections held in 1982. The Assembly seat of Baroda (Reserved), Gohana and Rohat were captured by the Lok Dal candidates. The party also unsuccessfully contested the bye-election to Lok Sabha from Sonipat Parliamentary constituency (1983). It again could not catch the seat of Lok Sabha in 1984. But in the Assembly Election of 1987, the Lok Dal won the 5 seats (Baroda, Gohana, Kailana, Rai and Rohat) out of 6 seats.

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1. This party was previously known as Bhartiya Jan Sangh which was merged with the Janata Party at the time of General Elections, 1977 but before the Mid-term Poll to Lok Sabha, 1980, it came to be known as Bhartiya Janata Party.
 2. Lok Dal (A) and Congress (I) Bhalla Group contested the General Elections (Assembly) of 1987 without success.

Communist Party of India.—This party was established in the area in 1952. During the Second General Elections, 1957, the party returned 2 candidates, one to the Lok Sabha and another to Vidhan Sabha. Since then, no communist candidate was returned to the Vidhan Sabha and Lok Sabha in General Elections, upto March 31, 1989.

Janata (s).—This party appeared in the Mid-Term Elections to Lok Sabha, 1980 and won the Sonipat Parliamentary seat. After it, no other election was contested by this party upto March 31, 1989.

From the above analysis it is clear that the major political parties in the district are : Congress (I), Bhartiya Janata Party, Janata Party, Lok Dal, Communist Party of India and Janata (S).

The Haryana Lok Samiti which figured prominently in the General Elections of 1962 but it was completely wiped off from the scene in 1967. The Socialist and Zamindara Parties were not figured after 1952. The Scheduled Castes Federation made a weak appearance only in 1957. The Republican and Bhartiya Pragtisheel Parties which appeared on the scene in 1962, also disappeared. The Swatantra Party entered the arena in 1967 but could make no headway at all.

The position of different political parties represented in the legislative bodies during 1977 to 1987¹ is given in the table below :—

Name of the political Party	No. of members elected	No. of valid votes polled by all contestants	Percentage
Lok Sabha			
Janata Party (1977)	1	3,46,900	80.95
Janata (S) (1980)	1	2,55,363	54.88
Congress (I) (1983)	1	1,60,244	40.60
Congress (I) (1984)	1	2,43,491	48.54
Vidhan Sabha			
Janata Party (1977)	5	1,22,379	47.09
Independent (1977)	1	57,773	22.23
Lok Dal (1982)	3	1,14,489	34.07
Congress (I) (1982)	1	1,20,564	35.88
Bhartiya Janata Party (1982)	1	24,890	07.41
Independent (1982)	1	66,638	19.38
Lok Dal (1987)	5	1,96,035	48.58
Bhartiya Janata Party (1987)	1	34,962	8.67

1. The year of elections has been bracketed.

The Independent candidates have been contesting all the elections for Vidhan Sabha and Lok Sabha since 1952. Previously, after winning the elections, they occasionally joined the ruling party or the opposition, but after the passage of Anti-Defection Law, 1985, they can not individually change their party/status so frequently.

NEWSPAPERS AND PERIODICALS

Some relevant details about the local publications as on March 31, 1989 are given below :—

Name	Year of establishment	Place of publication	Classification
1. <i>Narkesari</i> (Weekly-Hindi)	1965	Sonipat	News and current affairs
2. <i>Hamara Haryana</i> (Weekly-Hindi)		Sonipat	Ditto
3. <i>Yuva Aman</i> (Hindi-fortnightly)	1988	Sonipat	Ditto
4. <i>Nau Jawan Pragati</i> (Weekly-Hindi)	1976	Sonipat	Ditto
5. <i>Haryana Ka Bhavishya</i> (Weekly-Hindi)	1982	Sonipat	Ditto
6. <i>Haryana Crime Reporter</i> (Weekly-Hindi)	1977	Sonipat	Ditto
7. <i>Nakab Posh</i> (Weekly-Hindi)	1985	Kahni village	Ditto
8. <i>Palgam</i> (Weekly-Urdu)	1945	Sonipat	Ditto
9. <i>Amar Rajniti</i> (Hindi-Daily)	1989	Sonipat	Ditto
10. <i>Devi Shakti</i> (Hindi-monthly)	1988	Sonipat	Ditto

11. <i>Kailash Darshan Times</i> (Hindi-monthly)	1988	Sonipat	News and current affairs
12. <i>Ashok Chakra</i> (Monthly-Hindi)	1964	Sonipat	Literacy and Cultural
13. <i>Samaj Sandesh</i>	1960	Bhainswal Kalan	Ditto
14. <i>Haryana Pirya Desh</i> (Hindi-monthly)	1989	Sonipat	Current affairs news
15. <i>Atlas Pariwar</i> (Quarterly-Hindi-Urdu)	1955	Sonipat	House organ
16. <i>Beta Jamura</i> (Hindi-Weekly)	1987	Gohana	Current affairs news
17. <i>Aik Rastra Aik Paran</i> (Hindi-Weekly)	..	Sonipat	News and Current affairs
18. <i>Pankaj</i>	1959	Sonipat	College magazine

The intelligentsia have to depend upon papers and periodicals published outside the district. The educated class favour English dailies. Most older people depend for their news fare on Urdu dailies though the younger generation, not knowing Urdu, depend on Hindi dailies. These periodicals also feed their readers with political reviews and comments in addition to general reading matter like short stories, biographies and poems.

VOLUNTARY SOCIAL SERVICE ORGANISATIONS

There are several social service organizations, which function on a voluntary basis with the support of Government and public. More important such organizations are discussed here.

Samaj Kalyan Sabha, Gohana.—It was founded in May, 1957, with the sole object of promoting the welfare of women and children. The objects of the Sabha are given below :—

- (i) The main object is to run welfare services for women and children ;
- (ii) To arrange for the training of women folk and children for utilizing their spare time in constructive work, i.e. (tailoring, spinning, dyeing, weaving, carpet making, etc.) ;
- (iii) To encourage development of Khadi and village cottage and small-scale industries ;
- (iv) To arrange and run production units in industrial goods and also to provide work and wage under socio-economic programme to the common folk ; and
- (v) To arrange and manage foundling homes, orphanages, creches and nursery schools for the children of mothers employed as labourers and to build rescue homes and recreational centres for destitute women to encourage them in setting up in life with honest means.

Achievements.—This Sabha acquires special significance in as much as it is the only institution for women and children of this area. It is running a craft centre for women, *balwadi*, a primary school, a high school, a library and recreational centre, a child welfare society, a ladies club and a cottage industry centre.

The craft centre imparts training in tailoring, embroidery, knitting, *niwar* making, *durrie*-weaving, etc. The object is to foster a sense of self-respect among women by making them earning members of the family. This centre was recognised by the Government for Teachers Training Course and I.T.I.'s diploma examination on D.G.E.T. pattern.

During 1988-89, 34 girls got training in diploma while 18 ladies attended training in craft casual class.

Women in literacy class were given elementary education to eradicate illiteracy. More than thousand ladies attend regular lectures on different social subjects in weekly Saturday classes (*Satsang*) and are given training for social work and religious side. For the benefit of women, a Training Club was established for staging dramas and holding debates. The trainees are given opportunities to develop a sense of fine arts by practising dance and music.

The Sabha is also running nursery schools (*Balwadis*) at Mahra village (Gohana) and Gohana. There were 25 children in these *balwadi* centres in 1989. The cultural and educational facilities are provided to them at very nominal charges.

It has also started a production unit in Handloom under socio-economic programme financed by the Central Social Welfare Board, New Delhi. The unit manufactures curtain cloth, tapestry, bed-sheets, towels, *kheses*, etc. Another match manufacturing unit is also being run at Gohana under its control. Under these schemes, jobs are provided to the needy women and children.

A training centre for rehabilitation of distressed women is also run by the Sabha at Gohana. It is financed by the Ministry of Social Welfare of Government of India. About 40 distressed, destitute and deserted women are getting training in the centre. Training in tailoring, embroidery, knitting and other skills is given free to them so that they can be rehabilitated and be able to stand on their own feet by earning livelihood after training.

The Sabha is also running 27 Special Nutrition Programme Centres supplying food to 3,149 beneficiaries in different villages. This scheme is aided by Social Welfare Department, Haryana.

The following figures show the income and expenditure of the Sabha from 1973-74 to 1988-89

Year	Income	Expenditure
	Rs.	Rs.
1973-74	59,913	1,02,664
1974-75	85,348	1,30,574
1975-76	1,24,568	1,42,146
1976-77	1,08,880	2,37,095
1977-78	1,27,513	2,00,148
1978-79	1,39,139	1,75,027
1979-80	1,88,505	1,80,261
1980-81	2,66,968	2,86,524
1981-82	2,61,778	3,60,536
1982-83	2,22,258	2,86,166
1983-84	2,40,405	2,90,140
1984-85	3,00,050	3,15,002
1985-86	3,10,125	3,40,150
1986-87	3,15,756	3,75,766
1987-88	4,00,005	4,15,690
1988-89	4,05,125	4,50,423

Manav Sewa Trust, Sonipat.—The trust is identified as an organization with its motto "Service To Humanity in 'Service to God.'" It was established in 1981. It is a non-political body.

Main Objects.—The following are the main objects of the trust :—

- (i) To contribute towards medical relief by aiding, opening and maintaining homeopathic dispensaries ;
- (ii) To promote and aid education in general including adult education ;
- (iii) To establish, maintain and aid charitable institutions such as dharmshalas, sarais, community halls, gowshalas and child welfare centres ;
- (iv) To uplift, promote and aid the interests of backward classes in general ; and
- (v) To promote social and national interests.

Achievements.—Two beautiful children parks were developed in Industrial Workers Colony, Sonipat. A community hall and a cremation ground in rural area were under construction in 1989.

The source of income of this Trust is donation from the public and other institutions.

Hindu Educational and Charitable Society, Sonipat.—The Sonipat Hindu Educational and Charitable Society was established in 1979. Previously, it was known as Hindu Educational Society, Sonipat, which was started by S.M. Hindu High School, Sonipat in 1914.

Objects.—The objects of the society are as follows :—

- (a) To encourage, promote and propagate education ;
- (b) To organise, maintain and conduct institutions and classes for the advancement and imparting education at various stages ;
- (c) To provide facilities for those who desire to specialise in arts, scientific and technical subjects ; and
- (d) To promote family welfare programmes by setting up hospitals and other institutions.

Achievements.—The society is at present running the following seven institutions :—

Name of the Institution	Year of Establishment
1. S.M. Hindu High School, Sonipat	1914
2. Hindu College, Sonipat	1956
3. Hindu Kanya High School, Sonipat	1960
4. Hindu College of Education, Sonipat	1968
5. Hindu College of Pharmacy, Sonipat	1978
6. Hindu Vidya Peeth	1982
7. Hindu Girls College, Sonipat	1982

The sources of income of the society are donations and rent from the immovable property. Its income and expenditure are as follows :—

Year	Income	Expenditure
	Rs.	Rs.
1981-82	8,71,445	6,38,734
1982-83	10,70,771	10,70,671

Tika Ram Education Society, Sonipat.—It was started for the expansion of education in the area. Its constitution was amended on October 21, 1979. The following educational institutions are being run under its control :—

- (1) Tika Ram College of Education, Sonipat
- (2) Chhotu Ram Zamindara High School, Sonipat
- (3.) Tika Ram Girls High School, Sonipat

(4) Chhotu Ram Arya College, Sonipat

(5) Tikka Ram Primary School, Sonipat

Dewan Harnam Dass—Saraswati Trust, Sonipat.—This trust was set up in 1957 for the amelioration of the pitiable condition of the poor and the needy.

Aims and Objects

- (i) To give financial and material assistance to the poor and needy in all walks of life ;
- (ii) To provide medical relief to weaker sections of the society;
- (iii) To run charitable institutions ; and
- (iv) To help other charitable institutions devoted to the cause of suffering humanity.

Activities and Achievements.—Shri Janki Das Kapur Memorial Hospital was started in June, 1983. There is a provision for 30 beds in the hospital.

The Trust has an ashram at Haridwar for the benefit of the people visiting the holy city on pilgrimage.

The trust has launched a number of schemes to help the weaker sections of society. Clothes, blankets and quilts are distributed among the poor. Financial assistance is given to orphan girls for their marriage. Sweets are distributed among the poor on festivals.

The most remarkable achievement of the trust is in the field of education. Brilliant but poor students are identified and given scholarships to pursue their studies. Free books and other material were given to more than 1,000 poor students.

The trust has started an English-medium public school under the guidance of the Indlan Montessori Institute. A research institute is also attached to the school.

The health care programme of the trust provides medical aid to the poor and the weaker sections of society. A charitable hospital named after its founder has also been set up. Equipped with sophisticated instruments and a pathological instruments and a pathological laboratory, the hospital has a surgery unit with an air-conditioned operation theatre. The bed strength of the hospital is proposed to be raised to 100. In the past six years, the trust spent more than Rs. 16 lakh on its projects.

The following table shows the income and expenditure of the Trust :—

Year	Income	Expenditure
	Rs.	Rs.
1972-73	2,82,447	1,94,162
1973-74	3,04,064	1,72,544
1974-75	3,52,137	1,98,896
1975-76	3,80,601	1,99,953
1976-77	4,02,142	3,28,875
1977-78	4,71,254	3,75,550
1978-79	4,95,219	3,50,399
1979-80	4,62,816	4,03,641
1980-81	5,00,535	3,76,753
1981-82	8,04,580	8,04,580
1982-83	13,86,720	13,55,671
1983-84	18,71,060	27,09,343
1984-85	14,98,145	17,50,634
1985-86	14,90,169	25,67,038
1986-87	19,12,108	31,18,220
1987-88	26,18,903	29,02,645
1988-89	27,45,105	35,08,772

Gram Vikas Bal Kalyan Parishad, Ganaur.—The Gram Vikas Bal Kalyan Parishad was established at Ganaur in December, 1976. It was

started with the object to serve the destitute children in the rural areas and to provide honourable livelihood to widows/other women having no means of income. The main aim of the Parishad is to help destitute children (age-group of 6—18 years) by giving them free food, lodging and education. The training facilities in sewing, knitting and other works are given to the destitute women to make them earn their livelihood honourably in the Society. The youth of the rural areas are encouraged to take part in social and developmental activities at national importance.

The number of destitute children during 1976-77 to 1988-89 was as under :—

Year	Number
1976-77	25
1977-78	50
1978-79	55
1979-80	55
1980-81	55
1981-82	55
1982-83	55
1983-84	40
1984-85	35
1985-86	35
1986-87	30
1987-88	33
1988-89	25

During the above period (1976-77 to 1988-89), about 45 widows were helped by providing training in sewing/knitting and embroidery.

The sources of income include donations from individuals, regular contributions from members and grants from Government of India. The following table contains the details of year-wise income and expenditure of the Parishad :

Year	Income	Expenditure
	(Rs.)	(Rs.)
1976-77	37,000	37,000
1977-78	15,000	54,000
1978-79	57,000	65,000
1979-80	54,000	85,000
1980-81	85,000	85,000
1981-82	85,000	85,000
1982-83	22,220	87,000
1983-84	1,98,559	1,98,559
1984-85	61,372	61,372
1985-86	67,550	67,550
1986-87	69,733	69,733
1987-88	84,165	84,165
1988-89	40,500	1,14,028

District Council for Child Welfare, Sonipat.—The Council, affiliated to the Punjab and Haryana State Council for Child Welfare, was established at the time when Sonipat became an independent district. The Deputy Commissioner is the ex-officio President while the wife of the Deputy Commissioner is the Vice President and Chairman of the Council. The District Child Welfare Officer is the ex-officio honorary General Secretary.

Aims and Objects.—The main objectives of the Council are to promote welfare of children and educate the public about child welfare programmes. Secondly, the Council is to promote and undertake welfare services for both normal and handicapped children.

Achievements.—The council runs 8 *balwadis* in different villages. About 40 children in the age-group of 3—6 years are being looked after by the trained Balsevikas. These children are served with mid-day meal amounting to 50 paise per child daily.

It is also running 23 creches for the children in the age group of 0—6 years. Out of these, 18 creches are under the grant-in-aid from Central Social Welfare Advisory Board while 5 creches are under the grant-in-aid from Indian Council for Child Welfare. The children coming to these creches are looked after by the trained Balsevikas and mid-day meal amounting to 65 paise (per day per child) is served to the children. Provision of all-round development is also made with all modern equipment.

It also runs 13 supervised Home Work Classes, 20—25 children are benefitted in every class. An Anganwadi Worker's Training Centre is being run at Sonipat by the Council. In this training centre 50 girls are being trained for a period of 3 months by putting them with the children in the different anganwadis under the Integrated Child Development Scheme of Social Welfare Department.

Special Nutrition Programme under the grant-in-aid of Social Welfare Development, Haryana, was also undertaken by the Council during 1982-83. Under the programme, 30¹ centres functioned for 3 months with 100 beneficiaries (per centre per day) and a total sum of Rs. 72,583 was spent on this scheme.

The council gets grants from Indian Council for Child Welfare; Central Social Welfare Board; Social Welfare Department, Haryana, Education Department and Haryana Rajya Sainik Board. Membership fee is another source of income. Film shows are also arranged to raise funds. Besides, the council is getting 50 percent share of child welfare funds collected by Director, Public Instruction, Haryana.

The following statement shows the income and expenditure during 1973-74 to 1988-89 :—

Year	Income	Expenditure
	(Rs.)	(Rs.)
1973-74	79,432	84,471
1974-75	1,58,870	1,14,701
1975-76	1,81,655	1,69,238
1976-77	84,028	75,862
1977-78	73,468	86,000
1978-79	1,72,829	1,51,866

1, Such centres functioned under this organization upto 1982-83.

I	II	III
1979-80	2,99,045	2,47,450
1980-81	1,75,411	2,03,841
1981-82	2,28,572	2,37,855
1982-83	1,95,622	2,26,362
1983-84	2,75,307	2,49,712
1984-85	1,95,775	2,39,929
1985-86	2,23,750	2,48,104
1986-87	3,96,704	4,14,805
1987-88	4,18,803	4,57,013
1988-89	6,83,774	5,58,862

The Red Cross Society, Sonipat.—Red Cross Society is an international organization embodying the ideal of help to the needy and is free from religious, sectarian or political affiliation. Its activities are mainly directed towards the improvement of health, prevention of disease and mitigation of suffering. These include an extensive sphere of social service like hospital welfare, community health and sanitation, relief to the defence personnel, maternity and child welfare, emergency relief of all kinds, blood donation services, free eye-relief camps, immunisation, training of doctors, lady health visitors, mid-wives, nurses, *daïs*, etc. It also assists John Ambulance Association and other charitable institutions approved by the Haryana Branch of Indian Red Cross Society.

Achievements

Rehabilitation Centre for Orthopaedically handicapped.—A Rehabilitation centre for Orthopaedically handicapped having machines/equipment worth Rs. 74,111 has been set up in Civil Hospital, Sonipat. The Centre, besides the free artificial limbs/appliances to handicapped, provides the facility of physiotherapy treatment to such persons. In 1989, about 1,290 patients received the benefit of physiotherapy treatment. On an average 25 patients visit the centre for undergoing physiotherapy treatment daily.

Working Women Hostel.—There is a Working Women Hostel in Model Town, Sonipat under the control of Red Cross Society, Sonipat.

It was constructed at the cost of Rs. 17,66,000 in 1982. Those ladies whose income from employment does not exceed Rs. 2,500 per month are entitled to occupy the hostel rooms. Very nominal rent is charged from them.

Blood Donation Programme.—In 1989, 739 units of blood were collected during the blood donation camps.

Ambulance Services.—Two ambulances each in Civil Hospital, Sonipat and Gohana are being maintained by the St. John Ambulance Association.

First-Aid/Home Nursing Training.—During 1988-89, First-Aid and Home Nursing Training was imparted to 15,320 persons.

Family Planning Services.—One *Dai* Centre is being run in village Chhatara. During 1988-89, 39 sterilization cases were motivated against the target of 20.

Sources of Income.—The following are the main sources of income :—

1. Membership fee
2. Sale proceeds of lotteries
3. Share of relief fund
4. Grants from Haryana State Red Cross Society, Director Social Welfare Department, Haryana and Ministry of Social Welfare, New Delhi
5. Income from charity and film shows
6. Red Cross fairs and fetes

The following table shows the figures of income and expenditure from 1974-75 to 1988-89:—

Year	Income	Expenditure
	(Rs.)	(Rs.)
1974-75	1,54,931	1,69,949
1975-76	2,16,824	95,720
1976-77	5,02,657	4,05,904
1977-78	2,10,272	3,43,867
1978-79	6,52,285	7,13,985
1979-80	2,52,994	1,73,247
1980-81	6,14,020	1,46,211
1981-82	9,75,887	9,89,055
1982-83	9,36,896	1,63,561
1983-84	7,47,208	2,85,855
1984-85	5,61,990	1,84,561
1985-86	3,26,329	2,35,239
1986-87	5,05,243	4,36,821
1987-88	4,13,642	4,03,553
1988-89	4,64,231	6,25,273

Hospital Welfare Section.—This Section was established in January, 1973 as an institution affiliated to the district Red Cross Society. Its membership is open to both men and women.

Its aims are to undertake hospital welfare activities which include supply of medicines, food, clothings, magazines, books, etc. to the needy patients in hospitals and health centres. It occasionally distributes sweets and fruits to indoor patients. Besides, it arranges artificial limbs for the handicapped persons and ambulance services for the poor and deserving patients.

The activities of the Section are not confined to urban areas also. Immunization camps are organized in the rural areas. Health-check up of the school children is also conducted by the section. A baby show was organized in village Halalpur where the children were got medically examined and prizes were given to healthy babies.

The figures of income and expenditure are given in the table below :—

Year	Income (Rs.)	Expenditure (Rs.)
1974-75	22,186	17,194
1975-76	3,627	4,381
1976-77	25,991	4,264
1977-78	15,829	6,161
1978-79	5,035	4,049
1979-80	1,930	1,406
1980-81	29,365	17,600
1981-82	52,732	46,051
1982-83	8,070	69,677
1983-84	18,152	7,938
1984-85	51,752	27,657
1985-86	40,916	37,274
1986-87	23,135	11,626
1987-88	5,083	20,918
1988-89	20,067	4,036

St. John Ambulance Association, Sonapat.—The association was formed on March 8, 1973 to provide training in first-aid and to arrange transport of the sick in hospitals. It is a branch of the All India St. John Ambulance Association with its headquarters at New Delhi. St. John Ambulance Association, Haryana State Branch, Chandigarh governs it in the State.

A large number of poor and needy persons were benefitted with the service of the ambulance-cars since the inception of the Association. By the end of March, 1983, first-aid training was imparted to 18,696 candidates of different categories. In 1988-89, 15,320 persons received first-aid training.

The sources of income of the Association include income from the ambulance, fees from first-aid training and subscription by the members. Besides, it receives financial assistance from the District Red Cross Society. The following figures show the income and expenditure of the Association :—

Year	Income	Expenditure
	(Rs.)	(Rs.)
1974	15,809	2,884
1975	11,904	6,910
1976	37,931	550
1977	11,846	1,387
1978	12,537	63,888
1979	20,195	16,478
1980	40,650	26,922
1981	26,801	36,579
1982	20,713	45,959
1983	56,984	54,985
1984	99,802	65,591
1985	1,50,419	93,333
1986	1,51,936	1,03,841
1987	2,64,477	2,45,045
1988	2,54,167	2,38,749

District Olympic Association, Sonipat.—It was set-up at Sonipat in 1973 under the chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner. District Sports Officer was elected the Honorary Secretary of the Association. It is affiliated to the Haryana Olympic Association. It controls amateur sports in the district and encourages various sport associations by giving recognition to them and supervises their activities in order to promote the standard of sports. It also provides financial help to the teams, selected for participation at State level tournaments.

The sources of income of the Association include subscriptions, membership fee, grant from State Government, etc. The following figures show its income and expenditure from 1973-74 to 1988-89

Year	Income	Expenditure
	(Rs.)	(Rs.)
1973-74	58,033	58,033
1974-75	48,887	48,887
1975-76	33,015	33,015
1976-77	34,532	34,532
1977-78	46,209	46,209
1978-79	37,968	37,968
1979-80	1,05,972	1,05,972
1980-81	53,028	52,028
1981-82	44,118	44,118
1982-83	₹35,442	35,442
1983-84	₹46,578	46,578
1984-85	₹23,892	23,892
1985-86	₹23,835	23,835
1986-87	₹33,216	33,216
1987-88	₹36,103	36,103
1988-89	15,201	15,201

The *Arya Sewa (Jan Jagarti) Mahabhiyan* at Nahri village and Lions Club at Sonipat are also engaged in the service of the people on voluntary basis.

The Rotary Club was established at Ganaur on April, 1984. It is also engaged in social service on voluntary basis.

CHAPTER-XIX

PLACES OF INTEREST

The places of historical note and religious importance of the district are described below :—

GOHANA

Gohana is the headquarters of the tahsil and sub-division of the same name. It is situated at 29° 08' north latitude and 76° 42' east longitude. As per 1981 Census, its population was 26,188.

The town is located on the broad-gauge Rohtak Panipat section of railway line. It has four gates ; Rohtak gate, Delhi gate, Panipat gate and Hissar gate.

Gohana in olden times was known as Gavambhavana¹ and it was a place of pilgrimage. There are two popular versions about the origin of the name of the town. First, Gohana is composed of two words, *gao* and *hani*, the former meaning 'cow' and the latter 'loss'. It is, however, difficult to ascribe such a loss if it occurred, to any definitely known cause. The second version is that Gohana is composed of two words, *gao* and *dahana*, the latter meaning a small water course in local dialect. The cows of Taga Brahmans occupying Daryapur used to sit at the *pal* (mound) where present Gohana is situated and hence the name.

A story is current about the original settlement. It is said that it was the site of a fort of Prithviraja Chauhan, ruler of Delhi and was called Daryapur, after one of his chiefs. The fort was destroyed by Shihab-ud-din Muhammad Ghauri who defeated Rajput ruler (Prithviraja). Later it was occupied by Taga Brahmans. A tank known as Rohta or Rohtas jhil with natural spring attracted the attention of the neighbouring chiefs. Two Rajputs, Tej Singh and Fateh Singh with the help of two traders of Butana, Dhamar Mal and Pheru Mal exterminated the Brahmans and occupied the place. Later, this place drew the attention of the Muslim rulers of Delhi, who captured these two Rajputs. One of them accepted Islam. The other refused to do so and was ordered to be executed. One of the two traders, Dhamar Mal managed to survive by putting his family priest in his place. The other, Pheru Mal at first accepted Islam but later renounced the world and died as a hermit. Known popularly as Baba Pheru after his forced conversion to Islam, he lived as an ascetic in order to avoid his further propagation of the religion. It is said that the tomb of Baba Pheru existed till recently on the village common land (Shamlat).

1. *Mahabharata Vana Parva* (Poona Ed.) Ch. 81, V. 40).

The above story is mentioned in the district record of 1861 which speaks of the town owing its existence to a Rajput named Tej Singh and a Bania named Pheru. Both of them were forcibly converted to Islam in A. D. 1238 and 1239 respectively, and allowed to settle at Gohana, which, at that time was an enclosed common land used for keeping cattle and known by the name of Gow Dhana, later corrupted into Gohana.

A *Jal Jholni Mela* is held here in the month of Bhadon, when the idol of Lord Krishana is taken out in procession and is immersed in water in the evening. As already referred the town is said to have been the site of a fort belonging to Prithvi Raj, afterwards destroyed by Muhammad Ghauri. A yearly fair is held here at the shrine of Shah Zia-ud-din Muhammad, a saint who accompanied Muhammad Ghauri to India. There are two temples in honour of the Jain Arhat Parasnath, at which an annual festival takes place.

The other places of public utility include a post and telegraph office, a telephone exchange, a canal rest house, a civil hospital, veterinary hospital, a Government college, an I.T.I. and 4 high schools (3 for boys and 1 for girls)

SONIPAT

The town (51 kilometres from Delhi) is the headquarters of the district of the same name. It lies at 29°00' north latitude and 77°01' east longitude. It is situated on the Delhi-Ambala railway line.

There are different versions about the origin of its name. Some hold that the town was founded by Raja Soni who named it after him : while others associate it with Swarnprast of the Mahabharata times. The following extract from *Gazetteer of the Delhi District*, part A-1912 throws some light about the origin of the name of the town.

"Sonipat is a town of great antiquity and as founded apparently by the early Aryana settlers. Popular tradition, accepted as true by General Cunningham, identifies it as one of the five *Puts*, mentioned in the Mahabharata as demanded by Yudisthera from Duryodhan as the price of peace. Its foundation would thus be placed before the war of the Mahabharata. The point is, however, doubtful, and Sir Sayad Ahmed believed that it was founded by Raja Soni, 13th in descent from Arjuna, brother of Yudisthera. The town is picturesquely situated on the side of small hill which, standing out as it does in a level plain, is evidently formed from debris of buildings, that

have crumbled to decay on this one site during the town's long life of 300 years. In 1866, the villagers while digging a well from the top of the hill excavated from a depth of 70 or 80 feet below the surface a terra-cotta figure of the Sun in perfect preservation. General Cunningham pronounced this image to be at least 1200 years old"

In 1871, some 1,200 hemidrachms of Graeco Bactrians were unearthed which indicate it to be a town of great antiquity. The evidence of its occupation by Yaudheys is available through the recovery of a large hoard of their coins here. The Governor of Sonipat was defeated by Sultan Masud of Ghazni in A.D. 1037 when he marched through the Punjab in an attempt to expand his empire in Hindustan.

Among the ancient monuments the mosque of Abdullah Nasir-uddin and the tomb of Khawaja Khizar are worth mentioning. The mosque was constructed in the A.D. 1272 in Balban's reign in the memory of a celebrated saint. The tomb of Khawaja is among the ancient monuments of Sonipat. This tomb was built by Ibrahim Lodhi in the memory of Khawaja Khizar, a local saint and celebrity and local rulers used to consult him on all important matters. It is a fine structure of stone.

The tomb was built in the year 1351 A.D. This monument has been declared to be of national importance under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological sites and Remains Act, 1958.

The basement of the tomb was repaired with lime cement mortar. A drain was provided for drawing the water.¹

Sonipat town is proud of having the oldest Muslim shrine-Dargah Mamu Bhaanza, built over 1200 years ago, where a descendant of prophet Mohammad lies buried. It is situated at high place adjacent to the old ruins of the city.

The Dargah entombs the common grave of Hazarat Imam Nasiruddin (childhood name of Abedullah) and his child nephew Ibrahim. Imam Sahib was the son of Imam Bagar who was the second son of revered and holy Imam zain-ul-Abudin of Karbala episode. Hence the Imam Sahib was a direct descendant of the holy prophet. It is the first and perhaps the only shrine in India where a direct descendant of the holy prophet is lying in rest. The shrine has also the unique distinction of having been found and constructed by a Hindu Gaur Brahman ruler who became its first Matwalli and whose successors have held this honour in an unbroken chain till today.

Once Imam Sahib, his nephew and about 60-70 of his travelling companions were waylaid, their caravan looted and many of the travellers killed by the robbers between Samalkha and Gaur (On G.T. Road between

1, Indian Archaeology, 1968-69, p. 95.

Sonipat-Panipat). This happened on 10th of Muharram Hijri 147. Raja Wazir Shiv Chand then ruled over Sonipat on behalf of the King of Kannauj. He was born blind and used to perform his morning worship at the Lord shiv's temple on the bank of the Yamuna (the present site of the Dargah). One night he is reported to have seen the Imam Sahib in a dream who after identifying himself informed him of the tragedy and sought the Wazir's good wishes to retrieve him and his nephew's dead bodies and arrange a proper burial. He also referred the name of one Mehta Johar, a frequent traveller to Arab and well-known to the Imam family who could be helpful in this mission. As per the dream directions, Wazir Shiv Chand got the bodies retrieved and brought them to the temple site. It is said that as soon as the bodies arrived, the vision of one of his eyes was restored. The Wazir got both the bodies buried in one common grave just next to the shivlinga. It is said that immediately thereafter the vision of his second eye was also restored. Mehta Johar was sent to Mashad (in then Iraq) to inform the Imam's family. The present Mashad *Mohallah* near the Dargah still commemorates the Imam's birth place.

Wazir Shiv Chand became the first Matwalli of the Dargah. He constructed minarates and a fortress round the tomb and bestowed eight villages as Jagir to the shrine. His successors have been Matwallies since then.

The annual Urs takes place on 9th, 10th and 11th of Muharram. As per tradition followed from generation to generation, the family of Raja Wazir Shiv Chand has been having the privilege of offering the ceremonial *ghillaf* after performing the caremonial *ghusl* of the grave, *Dastaar bandi* to the head of the family on the last day of the Urs. The mosque next to the tomb was constructed by King Balban. The shrine is gradually tumbling down.

The shrine still gives the look of an ancient temple architecture and has *Shivlinga* at the head of the grave, covered by the *ghilaaf*. The shrine has always drawn devotees from all castes, creeds and today 80 percent of its devotees are Hindus. It is a living example of toleration and brotherhood between the Hindus and the Moharmdans.

Other prominent objects of attraction in the town are the two Sarogi's and the two Aggarwal Vaishnu's temples.

The motif of Kirtimukha, also called vyalamukha, has been found on bricks of stones used in ancient times on top of ■ prabhatorna, on arches of doorways, niches of temples and the back of idols. It is meant to terrify the non-believers and evil spirits as well as to protect the believers. Sonipat was among the centre which witnessed a resurgence of arts during the Gurjara Pratihara period.

After 1947, the refugees from Pakistan were settled in various rehabilitation colonies and the city experienced a sizeable physical sprawl. It is a class I town. Its population on the basis of 1981 Census was 1,09,369.

The city is developing rapidly in industries of different types. Its industrial area has several big factories. The biggest among them are Atlas Cycle Company and Mico industries (for manufacturing free-wheels and chains). The Atlas Cycle Company produces lakhs of cycles every year.

The places of public utility include a post and telegraph office, a telephone exchange, P.W.D. rest house, a veterinary hospital, a civil hospital, employees state insurance dispensary, I.T.I., government institute of surgical instruments and technology, four colleges, 10 high/higher secondary schools, 2 middle schools and 13 primary schools. The Department of Tourism developed a tourist resort, 'Chakor' at Sonipat town. It provides the facilities of restaurant, bar and retail liquor vend.

GANAUR

The town (59 kilometers from Delhi) is situated at 29° 08' north latitude and 77° 01' east longitude. It lies on the Ambala-Delhi railway line. It is connected with the G.T. Road by a link road. As per Census of 1981, its population was 16,489.

It is the headquarters of the tahsil of the same name. A few industries are also coming up. Its popularity has also been enhanced by the existing Bharat Steel Tubes factory. It has a very important grain market.

The places of public utility include a veterinary hospital, a civil hospital, a post-office and a police station.

KHARKHODA

Kharkhoda is situated at 28° 53' north latitude and 76° 55' east longitude, 19 kilometres from Sonipat district headquarters. As per 1981 Census, it was not classed as a town but all the offices of the sub-tahsil are stationed here.

A tomb of Sayyad exists here and a fair is held annually.

Besides a very good grain market, the other places of public utility include a college, veterinary hospital, a civil dispensary, a post office and a police station.

RAJLU GARHI

A tomb at Rajlu Garhi, about 12 kilometres from Sonipat, popularly known as Bala Sayyad throws some light on the 16th century traditions and

customs of that area, though there is no authentic evidence about the lineage of the Pir whose name the tomb bears. Legend has it that he was a Muslim mendicant who developed a large following with his magic spells and charms.

The monument was raised after his death and has since been visited by a large number of people, irrespective of caste and creed. With the passage of time, as the influence of Muslim rulers waned, the place was converted into a dharmshala for visitors. But the tomb continued to attract visitors and a *maulvi* settled there to preach in the name of the Pir.

People of the area began to worship the Pir for their personal benefits. A Patwari who had his desires fulfilled with the blessings of the Pir, constructed pucca boundary wall, even now, the place is treated as '*dargah*' and the devotees come to offer prayers.

Now a days, offerings are being presented to the tomb every day. On the auspicious occasions of Holi and Dewali, special fairs are held here.

The coming up of a railway station in the village, and its exposure to modernity has not robbed the place of its charm to the faithful followers.

The places of public utility are: primary, middle and high schools, a health-sub-centre, a dispensary and a post office.

MURTHAL

Situated on Grand Trunk Road, it is 8 kilometres from Sonipat. The village lies at 29° 02' north latitude and 77°06' east longitude. It had a population of 8,669 in 1981.

A study of the nomenclature of villages in Sonipat district shows that these used to be named after birds also. Murthal falls in this category. A popular explanation is that the area abounded in beautiful birds, especially peacocks. A Rajput named Malhan, to whom the village owes its existence, was fascinated by the woodland scenes and named it Murthal (Morthal) (Peacock's abode).

But for the important industries, the village has no place of interest. It is known for chillies in the State. Being close to Delhi, it has been developed into an important industrial belt. Due to the existence of Haryana Breweries and Haryana Agro-Industries, it is on the industrial map of the country. The beer and fruit products of the above industries are exported to foreign countries.

The places of public utility include sports complex, a higher secondary school, primary health centre and a veterinary dispensary. An area of 250 acres of land has been donated by the village panchayat for setting up an Engineering College here. There is an ancient Shiva temple here.

RAI

Headquarters of a development block, the village lies at 28°32' north latitude and 77°07' east longitude.

The village was once inhabited by the people of unknown origin. The district revenue records have no details about the original settlers, but these papers indicate that the settlers were hit hard by the prolonged drought of 1840. As a result, they deserted the village to settle elsewhere. They, however, returned to the area after a lapse of 10 years.

In the meantime, certain other persons settled here. They named the village after their gotra Rayan. But with the passage of time, the village came to be known as Rai instead of Rayan. The revenue records are silent about the place from where the people of Rayon gotra came and what prompted them to choose the village to live in.

Situated 32 kilometres from Delhi, it came into the limelight during the First War of Independence (1857). Its residents, who played a significant role in the war, were penalised by the British for revolting against the colonial regime.

It is about 11 km. from Sonipat district headquarters on G.T. Road. Several big industrial units have come up there. As it is gradually developing into an industrial area, nationalised banks have opened their branches there.

Rai has one of the premier sports institutes-Moti Lal Nehru School of Sports. The foundation stone of the building which now houses the school was laid by late Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru. The building was, in fact, constructed for Kamla Nehru Panchayat Shiksha Kendra, which was set up for the training to panches and sarpanches under the principle of Panchyati Raj. But later the Kendra was taken over by the State Government and converted into sports school. The school has got all modern facilities and has been the venue of some national sports events. Some of its students were sent to foreign countries for cultural trips on many occasions.

The places of public service include a police station, a civil dispensary, Government model school and a P.W.D. rest house.

KHANPUR KALAN

The village, 8 kilometres from Gohana, lies at 29°10' north latitude and 76°48' east longitude. Its population as per 1981 Census was 7,163. It is connected with Gohana by road. . .

It is famous in the whole of the State for very good arrangement of female education, A Kanya Gurukul, set up by philanthropist Bhagat Phul Singh, imparts training in various subjects to the girls.

There is a Jai Khera temple which is one hundred years old. A fair is held annually. Another fair in the memory of Bhagat Phul Singh is held on Sawan Sudi-2 (July-August). It lasts for one day only. Women sing songs and enjoy swinging on this occasion.

The places of public utility include a higher secondary school, Bhagat Phul Singh College, Degree College, Polytechnic College, a post office and a small telephone exchange. A dispensary and a primary health centre extend medical facilities to the people.

MUNDLANA

The village, 10 kilometres from Gohana, is the headquarters of a development block. It is situated at 29°12' north latitude and 76° 50' east longitude. It had a population of 5,657 in 1901 and was administered as a notified area. The population in 1981 was 6,986. It has no municipal status today.

Nothing is of archaeological interest here. It is connected by railway and bus tracks.

The places of public service in the village are a primary health centre and a family planning centre.

BUTANA

It is situated at 29°12' north latitude and 76°42' east longitude, 31 kilometres north of Rohtak, on a branch of the Western Jumna Canal, to which it gives its name. It was administered as a notified area in 1901. Now the village has no municipal status. It was classified as town in 1901.

A very huge fair in memory of Baba Balak Nath is held on Phagon Sudi-9 (February-March). Hindus, especially *Kanpara sadhus* worship at the *gaddi* of Baba Balak Nath.

The places of public utility include a post and telegraph office, a primary school, a middle school, a high school, a civil dispensary, Janta Higher Secondary school and Samaj Kalyan Sabha Industrial school for girls.

BARODA

The village falling in the sub-division of Gohana is situated at 29°09' north latitude and 70°37' east longitude near the Butana branch of the Western Jumna Canal. Its population in 1981 was 5,727.

The places of public service include a primary school, a middle school, a high school, civil dispensary, nursing home and a post and telegraph office.

BHATGAON

It is situated 13 kilometres away from Sonipat. Its population in 1981 was 4,823. This village came into limelight in 1955 when Russian leaders, Bulganin and N. Khurshchev alongwith late Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru visited it. Perhaps it was selected as model village by the Government.

The places of public utility include a high school, health centre and a post and telegraph office.

KATHURA

The village is 13 kilometres from Gohana, the block headquarters of the same name. It is connected by pacca road with Gohana, sub-divisional headquarters. A few small scale industries are being developed here.

There exists a temple of great religious significance. The festival of 'Rang-Bhari Ikadashi' is held on *phagan sudi-II* (February-March) to commemorate the victory of *devtas* (gods) over *rakhsas* (demons). (Reference to the popular legend relating to *Saundhya-mathan* is available in the *Puranas*).

Besides middle and high schools there are maternity home, health sub-centres and nursing home.

AKBARPUR BAROTA

The village is connected by road and railway with Delhi. Its population in 1981 was 2,611.

There is a Akbari Darwaza here. The monument was raised 400 years ago. Mela Guru Nanak Dev (in the memory of Guru Nanak Dev Ji) is held on the day of Holi.

During an archaeological survey, the painted grey and northern polished wares were discovered at Gumar and Akbarpur¹.

The places of public utility include a primary school, ■ middle school, a high school and a health sub-centre. It has also a facility of phone and post office.

KUNDLI AND SHAMRI

There are two villages, namely, Kundli (tahsil Sonipat) and Shamri (tahsil Gohana) whose people revolted against the British in the Uprising of 1857. They attacked and murdered some Englishmen who passed through these villages. The British after the Uprising confiscated the lands of the villages as a measure of punishment.

1. Indian Archaeology, p. 65, 1960-61.

PURKHAS (SONIPAT TAHSIL)

A red buff sandstone sculpture of Hari Pitamaha was recovered from the village. Its significance lies in the fact that it is the only sculpture of Hari Pitamaha in the country. It is carved in a round shape and the back of both deities are missing, while the base part of the sculpture is broken. Vishnu is standing in *abhanga* pose and wears a *Kiritamukuta*, *Yagnopavita*, a necklace and a dhoti, which is held tight by a waist band. Brahma or Pitamaha is also standing in the same pose. He has three faces including a central bearded face. The central face is shown with a beautifully ornamented *Jatakamukuta*.

GUJJAR KHERI

Gujjar Kheri in district Sonipat is one of those numerous places which bear the variation of the name Gurjara which occurs for the first time in literature and inscriptions belonging to the sixth Century A.D. Gurjara in ancient times denoted Gurjaradesa and its occupants who later spread far and wide and lent their name to different places and even regions in north and west India. People calling themselves Gujjars may still be found from the Indus to the Ganga and from Hazara mountains (now in Pakistan) to the Narmada. Mostly herdsmen, the Gujjars probably never excelled as farmers and soldiers. They specialized in cattle-keeping and adopted milk-selling as their main profession during the medieval period. About a century back Sir Denzil Ibbetson had found the Gujjars to be the largest caste in the Punjab (in India and Pakistan), Haryana, Himachal Pradesh as well as some adjoining territories. Even now the Gujjars form a considerable portion of the population of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan and Gujarat.

The wide distribution of place names derived from Gurjara and the existence of scattered tribes calling themselves Gujjars are associated by some scholars with the gradual spread of the foreign tribe of Khazars in its onward march across northern India. The Khazars (Gurjars), they believe, entered India from the north-west along with the Huns in the fifth century, A.D. D.R. Bhandarkar maintained that this foreign tribes came under Brahminical influence and divided itself into four castes, viz. Gurjara Brahmanas, Kshatriyas, Vaishyas and Shudras.

Without going into the polemics of the origin, development and spread of the Gujjars, we may take the village Gujjar Kheri to have once been inhabited by the tribe. The Gujjars cannot be regarded as the founders of the village, at best they could have been its refounders because the huge mound of Gujjar Kheri yields archaeological relics which go back to a period anterior to the existence of the tribe. The suffix Kheri may be derived from the Sanskrit word Khetika which means an old hamlet. So it is probable that the Gujjars settled on the ruins of an old site and gave it their name.

Gujjar Kheri is located at a distance of about 25 Km north-west of Sonipat. The present village covers only a part of the huge mound which is about 25

meters high and whose circumference may be more than 10 km. It lies on the western bank of the dry bed of a mighty river, probably the ancient Yamuna which now flows about 30 km east of it. The ancient sites of Ahir Majra and Bulandpur Kheri must have once remained the suburbs of the old town. Locally it is believed that in ancient times, it was known variously as Mayana, Kota, Satkumbha and Jalallabad. A popular legend tells us that it was the capital city of a wicked king Chakwa Ben, probably chakravarti Vena of the great epic Mahabharat and the Puranas. Known for her will power, his queen used to draw water from the well with the help of a thread.

Swayed by the fame of the kingdom, Ravana, the king of Lanka, went to Mayana to make friends with king Chakva. Impressed by the jewellery of Mandodri, Ravana's wife, the wife of Chakva, requested him to get her similar ornaments. Ravana, according to legend, offered the ornaments to the queen to strengthen friendship with Chakva. After getting the jewellery, the queen lost her power to draw water from the well with a thread. She decided to perform a 'Yajana' to regain her lost power. All saints and sages were invited to attend the 'Yajana'

Chhunkat Rishi of Satkumbha did not accept the invitation. He also refused to accept food at the Yajana because he believed that the king had gained his kingdom after shedding blood. Angered, the king ordered the Rishi to leave his kingdom. Not able to cross over to China, the Rishi returned to his native place near Chulkana.

When the king heard about his return, he flew into a rage and sent the army to crush him. The Rishi defeated the king's army with spiritual powers. This brought to an end the reign of the king who alongwith his family fled to a place of safety. The ruins of the capital, spread over miles near Kheri Gujjar tell the story of the King.

The residents of the village believe that after the fall of Chakva, the place remained neglected for many centuries. Some Hindu Kings later raised beautiful buildings, including temples which were destroyed by Mohammad Ghazni in 1043 A.D. Two temples were later built on the ruins.

During the course of his exploration along the right bank of the Yamuna river, K.N. Dikshit of the North-Western Circle of the Survey re-examined the extensive site at Kheri-Gujjar and found pottery and sculptures of the early medieval period.

The local tradition also assigns death of the King, mentioned above and the destruction of his capital to a flood which swept away the metropolis as a result of the curse of a sage. Whether the city was destroyed by flood or some other agency may only be determined by persistent and systematic archaeological

excavation of the site, but one thing is clear that the antiquity of the place goes back to the Mahabharata period as is indicated by the discovery of Painted Grey Ware, a typical pottery found from various places mentioned in the Mahabharata and assigned by archaeologists roughly to the first half of the first millennium B.C. Abundant early historic pottery reveals that it may have been in a flourishing state then and other relics indicate that it continued upto the medieval period. The site may have been destroyed during an attack of Sultan Masud in 1036 A.D. when he defeated Dipal Har, the Governor of Sonipat.

Right on the top of the mound to its east, now exists a temple in which medieval material-pillars, architectural pieces and even sculptures have been freely used. This part of the mound is known as Satkumbha and there is a tank nearby, by the side of the mound. It is generally believed by the people that the water of this tank possesses miraculous properties and never dries up not even during the hot summer months. The Haryana Government has recently sanctioned an amount of two and a half lakh rupees for the renovation of this tank. Thousands of devotees from all over the region visit this place on Sundays, the last Sunday of Shravan and the full-moon day of Kartika every year in particular.

The mound shows hollows at many places and in some instances relics of even double storeyed buildings may be seen. Most of the houses in the village are built of old bricks carried from the mound. Brick extraction has actually become a profession for some of the inhabitants. Not only bricks, even complete medieval carved pillars and other architectural pieces are sometimes extracted and removed to distant places. Coins, too, are obtained from the site quite often. They range from the Kushan to the Mughal period. The site seems to have been particularly rich in Gujjar- Parathihara coin and sculptures and Bull-Houseman type silver coins of Samantadeva. Tomara coins, too, are obtained sometimes.

The red sandstone sculpture was found from village Gujjar Kheri in district Sonipat. Upper and lower portions of the *Linga* are broken and only its head remains. The locks of hair are styled in the *Jatamukuta* fashion. The god is shown with a moustache and with three eyes including the one on his forehead. Below his horizontally placed third eye an *Urna* is also shown. The nose is partly damaged.

The smiling and graceful face, half closed eyes and elongated ears combine to present a divine effect. It is at the sametime somewhat inspiring. Stylistically the sculpture may be dated to *Circa* 5th century A.D.

Shiva is one of the most popular and important deities in India. He is mentioned as Rudra in the *Rigveda* where he has a subordinate position. Gradually, in other *Vedas*, and *Upanishads*, he acquired a higher status and different epithets. But the personality of Rudra was fully developed in the *Puranas*. Shiva is represented in aniconic and anthropomorphic forms in the sculptures. Aniconic representation is in the form of *Lingas* which may be either plain or with one or more faces. The antiquity of *Linga* worship goes back to Harappan age. But the *Ekamukh Linga* worship has gained more popularity during the Gupta period.

The masterpiece of Pratihara art in buff sandstone has been found from the Village. In this sculpture, Kartikeya has six faces, the main central face being encircled by five smaller ones. The god sits in the *maharajalila* posture on the back of his vehicle, the peacock. He holds the cock in his right hand and spear in his left hand. A plain round *prabhsmandala* is shown behind his head. The sculpture may be dated to circa 9th century A.D.

The god Kartikeya or Skanda is the second son of the divine couple Shiva and Parvati. He is known as Shadanana also because of his six faces. He is the Commander-in-Chief of the divine army and is regarded as the god of war. The earliest image of Kartikeya, with a single head and two arms, dated back to circa 1st century A.D. His representation as Shadanana in stone, however, became more popular in the medieval period.

A large number of stone sculptures from Gujjar Kheri have been removed to distant places but some of them may still be seen in private collections at Ganaur and Chandigarh and in the National Museum, New Delhi; Gurukul Museum, Jhajjar; Government Museum and Art Gallery, Chandigarh and the Department of Archaeology and Museums, Haryana, Chandigarh. These include a mukhalinga of the Gupta period showing Gandhara impact, a late Gupta female figure, early medieval images of Vishnu, Uma-Maheshwar, Kartikeya, Mahishamardini, Surya, Ganesh, Brahma, Ganga and Yamuna, Ganes, vidyadharas, Nandi, etc. Particular mention may be made of the rich collection made by an art connoisseur of Chandigarh, who possesses the rare images, of Garudavahi Vishnu, Trivikrama, Kali, Parvati, Brahmani, Narasimhi, Hariharas, Atlantes and a beautiful life-like hand holding a lotus flower. Terracottas, too, are found from Gujjar Kheri; and so also various other relics. It is, however, a pity that vandalism is still at large and the important site is being destroyed by brick-extractors, earth diggers, farmers and antiquity hunters.

The place attracts thousand of people from all over Haryana and nearby area on the last Sunday of Shravana and the Purnima of Kartik. A tank named Satkumbha which never goes dry is the main attraction for the tourists and other persons. Wet foot-prints often seen on the steps of the tank have added mystical significance to the hallowed place.

CHILDREN'S VILLAGE

On the Karnal-Delhi Road a little beyond the Moti Lal Nehru School of Sports at Rai, there is "Bal Gram", a children's village which is being run by the Haryana Government with funds from the Madhuban trust. A visit to this unique village, built on the pattern of the foreign-aided SOS villages, convinces one that there is no cause for orphan and destitute children to despair.

The plan to build a Bal Gram at Rai was conceived in 1979, the international year of the child. It was materialized on 11th November, 1982. This Bal Gram is administered by the Board of Trustees, Haryana Rajya Bal Bhawan, which is headed by the honourable Chief Minister of Haryana.

The objective of the Bal Gram, is to provide a warm and loving home for the orphan and destitute children. By home we mean a real home where the child feels secure and accepted. Bal Gram strives to give its children modern education and all facilities for recreation, sports and games and co-curricular activities for the entire development of their personality. Hence children, both boys and girls of Haryana only are admitted irrespective of their religion and caste. They are given freedom and opportunity to practise their own religion.

For the admission to Bal Gram Rai, the following conditions are to be fulfilled :--

- (a) The Child should be an orphan.
- (b) His/her age should be below 7 years.
- (c) The parents of the child should be domicile of Haryana State.

The children whose either of the parents is alive are not granted admission. The male children after attaining the age of 12 years are shifted to Haryana Rajya Bal Bhawan, Madhuban, Karnal ; sister organisation of this institute.

It is spread over an area of four acres. The five cottages (modern houses), named after rivers Alakhnanda, Bhagirathi, Narmada, Cauvery and Godavari are humming with the voices of young ones and their foster mothers.

Here 7-8 children live in a house known as cottage under the care of an able and dedicated mother in a very family atmosphere. The Village Father and Assistant supervises the work and guides the mothers and the children. Most of these children have been here for several years. In this Bal Gram, there are sixteen modern houses which can accommodate up to 150 children. Each house consists of four bed rooms, a drawing-cum-dining room, kitchen, bath rooms and toilets with all modern facilities.

The cottages are run independently by the "mothers" who are given a monthly ration allowance to buy groceries from a shop within the village.

A minimum nutritious diet is prescribed, but the mothers are free to choose the menu. Each cottage designed almost on the pattern of high income group houses has a drawing-cum-dining room, complete with furniture, carpet and bright posters of children with captions that spell hope. An attempt is made to give the best environment to all of them. It is an opportunity equal to what children get in comfortable middle-class homes.

When Bal Gram was started, orphans and destitute children were brought to it from the villages of Haryana. They were sickly, untutored and scared. The children are now being educated at different institutions in the area. Bal Gram children attend the nursery school (Play House, Rai) attached to the Motilal Nehru School of Sports, Rai. After the primary education here, they continue their schooling either in the same Sports School or in the other good schools nearby, depending on the merit and the general performance of each child.

In 1989, there were 104 playful and lovely children here who feel perfectly at home. Bal Gram renders the services to the needy children free of charge. No efforts will be spared to bring up these children as responsible citizens and settle them in life decently. Rs. 5/- is spent on the daily diet of every child.

And if the children have benefitted, so have the mothers who are widows or deserted women or those who never got married and have no children of their own. The salary of a foster mother is Rs. 525 per month besides free board and lodging.

Though boys and girls are kept in separate cottages, they come together at school and share common facilities such as playroom, library, T.V. and music room. According to an official of the Bal Gram, one notices a change for the better every day in the children. The mothers too, many of whom have had traumatic past, have emerged richer and happier after being entrusted with the care of a home and children.

The other monuments and better known places of rural areas are detailed below :—

Place	Monuments	Age	Remarks
I	II	III	IV
Kakana Bahaduri	Shrine of baba Rodhagarh	200 Years	A fair is held annually.
Rabhra	Baulian	Very old	Annual fair is held.
Nathupur	(i) Maqbra of a Pegamber	Very old	—
	(ii) Samadh of a Sadhu	Very old	—
Chitana	Shrine of Devi	Very old	A fair is held annually.
Laharha	Samadh Baba Maha Das	50 years	Ditto
Garhi Brahmanan	Temple of Shambhu Dayal	Very old	Annual fair is held.
Thana Khurd	Sali Baba's temple	150 years	A fair is held annually.
Dheki	Temple of Shivaji	60 years	A fair is held annually.

TABLE-I
NORMAL AND

Station	No. of Years of Data		January	February
			1	2
1. Gohana	74	A	21.7	17.8
		B	1.8	1.5
		A	20.8	13.7
2. Sonipat	74	B	1.8	1.3
Total		A	42.5	31.5
		B	3.6	2.8
No. of Stations	2	A	21.3	15.7
		B	1.8	1.4
Mean				

PART-A

EXTREME RAINFALL (1901—1980)

March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
13.4	8.4	11.9	42.5	156.3	165.5	93.0	15.9
1.2	0.7	1.1	2.7	7.3	7.3	4.1	0.8
10.6	6.0	11.7	42.8	181.2	258.4	105.1	16.9
0.9	0.6	1.1	2.6	7.6	7.7	4.1	0.9
24.0	14.4	23.6	85.3	337.5	323.9	198.1	32.8
2.1	1.3	2.2	5.3	14.9	15.0	8.2	1.7
12.0	7.2	11.8	42.7	168.7	161.9	99.1	16.4
1.1	0.7	1.1	2.7	7.5	7.5	4.1	0.9

Station		No. of years of Data	
		November	December
		11	12
1. Gohana	A	5.6	7.5
	74 B	0.2	0.7
2. Sonipat	A	2.5	6.6
	74 B	0.2	0.7
Total	A	6.1	14.1
	B	0.4	1.4
No. of Stations	2		
Mean	A	3.1	7.1
	B	0.2	0.7

(A) Normal rainfall in mm.

(B) Average number of rainy days (days with rain of 2.5 mm. or more)

* Based on all available data upto 1901 to 1980.

** Years of occurrence given in brackets.

n Data for less than 365 days.

Annual	Highest annual rainfall as % of Normal and year **	Lowest annual rainfall as % of normal and year**	Heaviest rainfall in 24 hours*			
			Amount (mm)	Year	Month	Date
I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII
557.5	165	45				
29.4	(1909)	(1939)	189.5	1911	September	28
576.3	232	31				
29.5	(1964)	(1939)	257.8	1933	September	19
	567.0	187%	42%			
	(1964)	(1938)				
29.7						

TABLE 1

Part-B

Frequency of annual rainfall in the District

(Data 1901 to 1980)

District : Sonipat

Range in mms.	No. of years
201—300	.. 5
301—400	.. 6
401—500	.. 15
501—600	.. 18
601—700	.. 13
701—800	.. 6
801—900	.. 4
901—1000	.. 3
1001—1100	.. 1
Total	.. 71

(9 years data not available)

TABLE II
Important Fairs

Sr. No.	Town/Village	Fair	Date and Duration	Significance
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Rindhana	<i>Mata-ka-Mela</i>	Chet Sudi 8 (March-April)	Religious offering made in the temple
2.	Do	Shivratri	Phagan Badi 14 (February-March)	Religious
3.	Dhanana Aladadpur	Shivratri	Phagan Badi 14 (February-March)	Religious
4.	Baroda Mor	<i>Dohab wala</i>	Bhadon Sudi 5 (August-September)	Religious, in the memory of a Sidh fakir
5.	Rabhra	Dera Nagan, Baba Balak Nath	Phagan Sudi 9 (February-March)	Religious, dedicated to Baba Balak Nath
6.	Rukhi	Haryali Teej	Sawan Sudi 3 (July-August)	Seasonal and recreational
7.	Do	Govardhan Puja	Kartik Sudi 1 (October-November)	Religious—To commemorate Krishna's lifting Govardhan Mountain on his little finger to protect cows and cow-herd boys and girls from the torrential rains
8.	Kathura	.. <i>Rang Bari Ikudashi</i>	Phagan Sudi 1 (February-March)	Religious
9.	Gohana	.. <i>Mela Jal Jholni</i>	Bhadon Sudi 1 (August-September)	Religious
10.	Do	Mela Devi	Chet Sudi 8 (March-April)	Religious
11.	Mehandipur	.. Yamuna Ashnan	Last Sunday of Sawan (July-August)	Religious
12.	Seoli	.. Shivratri	Phagan Sudi 14 (February-March)	Religious
13.	Seoli	.. Holi	Phagan Purnamash (February-March)	Seasonal and recreational
14.	Akbarpur Barota	.. Mela Guru Nanak Dev	On the day of Holi	Religious in the memory of Guru Nanak Dev
15.	Khubru	.. Mela Paba Shamarak Shah	Phagan Purnamash (February-March)	Religious
16.	Tihar	.. Mela Sadh Poojan	Bairakli 3	Religious—dedicated to Gaujan Sadh
17.	Kakroi	.. Magh Chaudash	Magh (January-February)	Religious

1	2	3	4	5
18.	Karewari ..	Anwala Pooja	Phagan 1 (February-March)	Religious (It is considered that worship of Anwala trees bestows Children)
19.	Chatana ..	Mela Devi	Chet Sudi 8 (September-October)	Religious—It is said that in times immemorial an idol of goddess sprang up from the ground and a temple was constructed in which the idol began to be worshipped
20.	Garhi Brahmanan ..	Mela Chambhu Dyal	August	Religious
21.	Lahrara ..	Mela Baba Mohan Dass	Chet Amavas (March-April)	Religious
22.	Dheki ..	Shambhu Fair	Chet Sudi 9 (March-April)	Religious, fair was started by his disciples in memory of Baba Mast Nath who died in 1864
23.	Nahri ..	Mela Himmat Nath	Phagan Badi 9	Religious—in memory of Saint Himmat Nath
24.	Ferozepur Bangar ..	Shivratri	Sawan Badi 13 (July-August)	Religious
25.	Sonipat ..	Solono-ka-Mela	Sawan Sudi 15 (July-August)	Social and religious
26.	Do ..	Janam Ashtami	Bhado Badi 8 (August-September)	Religious
27.	Do ..	Mela Shivji	Sawan Badi 13 (July-August)	Religious
28.	Do ..	Mela Mata	Chet (March-April)	Religious (Worship of goddess by women)
29.	Kharkhoda ..	Ganga Dussehra	Jeth 7 (May-June)	Religious (birtday of Ganga Ji)
30.	Bhainsru Kalan	Mela Gurukul	Phagan (February-March)	Religious—to celebrate the annual function of Gurukul Bainswal Kalan

TABLE III

Divorce Cases as on March 31, 1989

Year	Cases Instituted	Divorce granted	Petitions	Cases Compro- mised	Cases Pending	
1	2	3	4	5	6	
1973—(24-10-73)	..	7	..	..	7	
1974	..	24	4	7	3	10
1975	..	21	6	6	4	5
1976	..	38	11	4	4	19
1977	..	90	12	24	■	48
1978	..	116	33	35	12	36
1979	..	109	30	43	9	27
1980	..	129	25	26	13	65
1981	..	276	93	69	30	84
1982	..	166	58	47	18	43
1983	..	201	53	38	44	66
1984	..	159	55	39	2	63
1985	..	218	58	64	5	91
1986	..	222	65	■	18	77
1987	..	215	62	73	4	76
1988	..	212	74	77	7	94
1989	..	138	23	20	19	76

TABLE IV

Statement showing the disposal of Rural/Urban agriculture land in the district as on March 31, 1989.

Urban Evacuees Agricultural Lands					Rural Evacuees Agricultural Lands								
Pure Evacuee		Under Occupancy rights		Total area	Cultivated	Banjar	Chairm						
1	2	3	4	5	6								
Kanals					Marlas	Kanals	Marlas	Kanals	Marlas				
Area available	..	299	2	..	..	299	2	18,011	2	934	12	2,365	14
Area disposed of	..	252	3	..	..	252	3	16,650	16	638	12	1,965	14
Balance	..	46	19	..	..	46	19	1,360	6	296	0	400	0

TABLE V
Production of Principal Crops

(Thousand tonnes)

Crop	1986-87	1987-88	1988-89
1. Foodgrains:			
Rice	66	32	57
Jowar	5	a	5
Bajra	11	3	10
Maize	1	1	1
Wheat	367	333	389
Gram	3	1	2
Barley	1	1	1
2. Pulses:			
Mash	5	7	13
Moong	2	1	1
Masor	1	1	3
Arhar	..	..	@
Other Pulses	..	..	..
3. Oilseed—			
Groundnut	..	..	..
Sesame	..	..	..
Rape & Mustard	5	4	7
Linseed	..	..	..
4. Others:			
Sugarcane	70	54	69
Potatoes	..	..	..
Cotton (American)]	4	4	—
Cotton (Desi)	4	4	4

(@ less than 50 tonnes)

TABLE VI

List of Veterinary Institutions of District as on 31st March, 1989

Serial No.	Location
Veterinary Hospitals	
1.	Sonipat
2.	Jaun
3.	Ganaur
4.	Sisana
5.	Khewara
6.	Mandora
7.	Bhainswal
8.	Gohana
9.	Kathura
10.	Mundlana
11.	Baroda
12.	Gangana
13.	Bichpari
Veterinary Hospital-cum-Breeding Centres	
1.	Murthal
2.	Bajana Khurd
3.	Jakholi
4.	Khanpur Kalan
5.	Nizampur
6.	Bega
7.	Khubru
8.	Mohana
9.	Kharkhoda
10.	Bhigan
11.	Pianna
12.	Datana
13.	Kohli
14.	Pachwas
15.	Nehal

I	II
16.	Tajpur
17.	Aterna
18.	Harsana Kalan
19.	Deepalpur
20.	Farmana
21.	Kirohli Pehladpur
22.	Bhatgaon

Veterinary Dispensaries

1.	Rajpur
2.	Sitwali
3.	Jagsi
4.	Joli
5.	Rukhi
6.	Anawali
7.	Garhi Bala
8.	Gavole
9.	Turkpur
10.	Tawara
11.	Pipli Khera
12.	Moi Majra
13.	Rithal
14.	Mahmudpur
15.	Ahulana
16.	Saidpur
17.	Bidhlan
18.	Nathupur
19.	Jatheri
20.	Shamari Sisana
21.	Dhanana
22.	Chatera
23.	Khanpur-Khurd
24.	Rindhana
25.	Bhawar



I	II
26.	Rewara
27.	Bali-Brahman
28.	Mahra (Election area of Gohana)
29.	Agwanpur
30.	Panchi-Jatan
31.	Kailana
32.	Shekh-pura
33.	Garhi-Jhinjara
34.	Bali Kutubpur
35.	Ahulana
36.	Jat-Joshi
37.	Rithdana
38.	Rohna
39.	Mahra (Election area of Sonipat)
40.	Mehlana
41.	Mobile Unit, Sonapat
Regional Artificial Insemination Centre	
1.	Sonipat
Stockman Centres	
1.	Tharu
2.	Badana
3.	Barwasni
4.	Bayanpur
5.	Akbarpur Barota

TABLE VII
Industries (Large-scale, small-scale and cottage Industries) in Sonipat District

Year	No. of the units	Installed capacity	Location	Capital Invest- ment (in lacs)	Total Assets (in lacs)	Produc- tion Qty. Value (Rs.)	No. of persons in em- ploy- ment	Wages & salaries	Gross profit	Exports items	Value (Rs. in lacs)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1973-74	..	139	75% Sonipat	210	70	800	920	4.60	8%		
1974-75	..	68	80% Sonipat	105	35	350	510	2.50	12%		
1975-76	..	87	80% Ganaur	150	60	520	580	2.90	14%		
1976-77	..	76	80% Gohana	80	32	450	370	3.95	10%		
1977-78	..	80	75% Sonipat	120	48	420	520	2.60	10%		
1978-79	..	203	75% Kharkhoda	90	36	250	1,030	5.15	8%		Not a vail- able
1979-80	..	318	80% Mudlana	85	34	280	1,400	7.00	12%		
1980-81	..	438	75% Rasoi Murthal	100	40	320	2,000	10.20	12%		1360.90
1981-82	..	428	80% Gohana, Kundli	90	36	300	1,940	9.70	12%		1117.01
1982-83	..	569	80% Ganaur, Rai	115	47	360	2,290	14.50	8%		776.60
1983-84	..	573	80% Gohana, Sonipat	120	52	365	2,300	15.00	10%		
1984-85	..	601	80% Gohana, Ganaur	132	56	372	2,384	16.00	11%		
1985-86	..	628	75% Sonipat, Kundli	136	58	379	2,279	15.00	10%		
1986-87	..	677	75% Ganaur, Mudlana	142	62	384	2,318	15.48	12%		
1987-88	..	457	70% Murthal, Sonipat	118	48	320	2,208	15.10	10%		
1988-89	..	454	80% Sonipat, Rai	117	42	316	2,200	14.57	10%		

TABLE IX

Trade Unions of Industrial Workers as at March 31, 1989

Serial No.	Name of the Trade Unions
1.	Label Workers Union, M.T., Sonipat
2.	Haryana Breweries Workers Union, Sonipat
3.	Sonipat Central Cooperative Bank Employees Union, Sonipat.
4.	Co-operative Department Salesman Union, Sonipat
5.	Nagar Palika Karamchari Sangh, Sonipat
6.	Nagar Palika Karamcheri Union, Sonipat
7.	Essex Poultry Farm Workers Union, Sonipat
8.	Sonipat Safai Karamchari Mill Workers Union, Sonipat
9.	Indo Malt Employees Union, Sonipat
10.	Textile Mazdoor Sangh, Sonipat
11.	Tripati Woollen Mill Employees Union, M.T., Sonipat.
12.	Leather Workers Union, Sonipat
13.	Janta Organo Chemical Workers Union, Sonipat
14.	Haryana Sheet Glass Workers Union, Sonipat
15.	H.S.A. Mazdoor Union, Murthal
16.	Rolling Mill Mazdoor Union, Sonipat
17.	Bharat Steel Tubes Workers Azad Union, Ganaur
18.	The B.K. Iron and Steel Workers Union, Sonipat
19.	B.S.T. Mazdoor Sangh, Ganaur
20.	B.S.T. Karamchari Union, Ganaur
21.	Suraj Steel Employees Union, Sonipat
22.	Hindustan Devi District Workers Union, Jathari
23.	Engineering Mazdoor Union, Sonipat
24.	Beas Mazdoor Union, Sonipat
25.	Hindustan Everest Kamgar Congress New Hindustan Tool Factory, Jathari
26.	Engineering Workers Union, Murthal
27.	Auto Engineering Mazdoor Union, Sonipat
28.	H.C.E. Workers Union Division Kamgar Union, Sonipat
29.	H.C.E. Workers Union, Sonipat

APPENDIX

30. Atlas Mazdoor Union, Sonipat
 31. Atlas Mazdoor Sangh, Sonipat
 32. Atlas Janta Workers Union, Near Atlas, Sonipat
 33. Milton Cycle Karamchari Union, Sonipat
 34. Chhabra Khomcha Rehri Union, Near Bus Stand, Sonipat
 35. Halwai Karamchari Sanghtan, Sonipat
 36. Haryana Barber Shop Keepers Association, Sonipat
 37. Panjab National Bank Workers Organisation, Sonipat
 38. The Vanaspati and Food Workers Union, Kundli
 39. Spinning Mill Workers Union, Gohana
 40. Niwar Factory Workers Union, Gohana
 41. Rubber Workers Union, Sonipat
 42. Chemical Workers Union, Sonipat
 43. Glass Workers Union, Sonipat
 44. Gedore Tools Workers Union, Sonipat
 45. General Engineering Workers Union, Sonipat
 46. Milton Cycle Mazdoor Sangarsh Samittee, Sonipat
 47. Halwai-Hotel Workers Union, Sonipat
 48. Textile Workers Union, Sonipat
 49. Atlas Karamchari Union, Sonipat
 50. Haryana Sheet Glass Mazdoor Sangthan, Village Sovele, Sonipat
 51. Vegetables Salesman Union, Ganaur
 52. Mini Bank Mazdoor Union, Central Co-operative Bank, Gohana
 53. Auto-Rickshaw Chalak Union, Sonipat
 54. Maco Lok Mazdoor Sangh (Lok Dal), Sonipat
 55. Rickshaw puller Union, Sonipat
 56. Dargi Workers Union, Sonipat
-

TABLE X

Block wise Joint Stock Banks as on March 31, 1989

Block	Branches
1. Ganaur	.. 1. Punjab National Bank, Ganaur 2. Punjab National Bank, Purkhas 3. Central Bank of India, Ganaur 4. Central Bank of India, Ghasauli 5. Oriental Bank of Commerce, Ganaur 6. State Bank of India, Larsauli 7. Oriental Bank of Commerce, Khubru
2. Kharkhoda	.. 1. Punjab National Bank, Sisana 2. Punjab National Bank, Farmana 3. Central Bank of India, Khanda 4. Central Bank of India, Kharkhoda 5. New Bank of India Majra Farmana 6. State Bank of India, Kharkhoda 7. Allahabad Bank, Mandaura
3. Rai	.. 1. Punjab National Bank, Rasoi 2. Punjab National Bank, Nangal Kalan 3. Bank of India, Rai 4. Central Bank of India, Rasoi 5. United Commercial Bank, Kundli 6. United Commercial Bank, Jakhauli 7. Syndicate Bank, Chetehra 8. State Bank of India, Bahalgarh 9. State Bank of India, Halalpur 10. State Bank of India, Moti Lal Nehru Sports School, Rai 11. State Bank of Patiala, Kundli 12. State Bank of Patiala, Badhmalik
4. Gohana	.. 1. Punjab National Bank, Gohana 2. Punjab National Bank, Khanpur Kalan 3. Punjab National Bank, Rewara 4. Punjab National Bank, Bhainswal Kalan

I

II

		5. State Bank of Patiala, Gohana	
		6. Oriental Bank of Commerce, Gohana	
		7. Central Bank of India, Lath	
5. Mundlana	..	1. Punjab National Bank, Mundlana	
		2. Punjab National Bank, Barola	
		3. Punjab National Bank, Butana	
		4. Punjab National Bank, Khandrai	
		5. State Bank of Patiala, Jagsi	
6. Kathura	..	1. Punjab National Bank, Kathura	
		2. Central Bank of India, Rindhana	
		3. Oriental Bank of Commerce, Nizampur	
		4. State Bank of Patiala, Gharwal	
7. Sonipat	..	1. Punjab National Bank	Sonipat, Sonipat City, Sonipat, M.T. Sonipat—14 Mohna
		2. Central Bank of India	Sonipat, Sonipat, M.T. United Bank of India, Sonipat Bank of Maharashtra, Sonipat Bank of India, Sonipat Indian Bank, Sonipat Dena Bank, Sonipat State Bank of India, Sonipat State Bank of India (ADB) Sonipat State Bank of India (ATLAS) Sonipat, State Bank of India, Bhatgaon, State Bank of India, Rathdana Road, Lehrara State Bank of India, Chatana State Bank of India Sandal Kalan State Bank of Patiala, Sonipat

I**II**

State Bank of Patiala**New Bank of India, Sonipat****Punjab and Sind Bank, Sonipat****Oriental Bank of Commerce,
Sonipat****Oriental Bank of Commerce,
Murthal****Bank of Baroda, Sonipat****Allahabad Bank, Sonipat****State Bank of Bikaner &
Jaipur, Sonipat****Canara Bank, Sonipat****Syndicate Bank, Sonipat,
Sector-14**



TABLE XI

Main arrivals in regulated markets

Regulated Markets	Year in which regulated	Sub-Market yards	Purchase centres	Main arrivals
1. Gohana	1957	(i) Subzi Mandi, Gohana (ii) Mundlana (iii) Khanpur Kalan	(i) Baroda (ii) Bichpari (iii) Siwana Mal (iv) Rukhi	Wheat, Paddy, <i>bajra</i> , <i>gur</i> , shakkar, potatoes, fruit and vegetables
2. Sonipat	1941	(i) Murthal (ii) Bahulgarh (iii) New Sabzi Mandi, Sonipat (iv) Kharkhoda (v) Mohna	(i) Biswameel (ii) Nehru (iii) Purkhas	Wheat, gram, barley, Jowar, Bajra, maize, Sarson, <i>gur</i> , cotton-desi, cotton-American, paddy, potatoes and fruit and vegetables
3. Ganaur	1966	(i) Pugthala	(i) Datauli (ii) Sanpehra	Chillies, <i>gur</i> , shakkar, wheat, paddy and vegetables

TABLE XI

Detailed account of income and expenditure pertaining to Cattle Fairs in district

Year	Gross Income	Expenditure	Net Income
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1973-74	2,50,375	15,710	2,34,665
1974-75	2,85,391	18,789	2,66,602
1975-76	2,24,708	16,683	2,08,025
1976-77	2,63,800	28,493	2,35,307
1977-78	3,07,924	32,772	2,75,152
1978-79	3,02,693	55,173	2,47,520
1979-80	3,56,723	33,466	3,23,257
1980-81	4,24,503	43,879	3,80,624
1981-82	4,12,299	55,802	3,56,497
1982-83	2,87,011	50,579	2,36,432
1983-84	3,27,316	48,252	2,79,064
1984-85	4,70,219	60,612	4,09,607
1985-86	4,64,574	62,392	4,02,182
1986-87	4,85,006	52,904	4,32,102
1987-88	5,70,010	53,996	5,16,014
1988-89	7,88,714	60,792	7,27,922

TABLE XIII

(Rest House/Dak Bungalows and Dharamshala)

(As on March 31, 1989)

Name /Place of the Rest House	Accommodation available (Room)	Reservation authority
P.W.D., Rest House, Sonipat	.. 14	XEN, PWD, Sonipat
PWD., Rest House, Rai	.. 3	XEN, PWD, Sonipat
PWD, Rest House, Larsauli	.. 3	XEN, PWD, Sonipat
Canal Rest House, Nagar (Gohana)	.. 4	XEN, WJC Karnal
Canal Rest House, Saragthal	.. 2	XEN, WJC, Rohtak
Canal Rest House, Butana	.. 2	XEN, WJC, Rohtak
Canal Rest House, Ranakheri	.. 2	XEN, WJC, Rohtak
Canal Rest House, Rithal	.. 2	XEN, WJC, Rohtak
Canal Rest House, Kakroi	.. 3	XEN, WJC, Delhi
Canal Rest House, Thana Kalan	.. 3	XEN, WJC, Delhi
Canal Rest House, Silana	.. 3	XEN, WJC, Delhi
Canal Rest House, Sardhana	.. 3	XEN, WJC, Karnal
Canal Rest House, Juan	.. 3	XEN, WJC, Delhi
Canal Rest House, Pio-Manyari	.. 2	XEN, WJC, Delhi

Dharamshala

Name of Dharamshala	Location	Accommodation available
Dharamshala Bhartu Saraf	.. Sonipat	10
Dharamshala Lala Paras Dass Jain	.. Sonipat	4
Dharamshala Aggarwal	.. Sonipat	4
Dharamshala Jain	.. Sonipat	2
Dharamshala Chuni Lal	.. Sonipat	2
Dharamshala Udmi Ram	.. Sonipat	3
Dharamshala Lala Jai Narain	.. Kharkhoda	9
Satsang Bhawan	.. Gohana	5
Dharamshala Gopi Ram	.. Gohana	2
Dharamshala (Punjabi Wala) Arya Samaj	.. Ganaur	■
Dharamshala (Punjabi Wala) Arya Samaj	.. Ganaur	3
Dharamshala Arya Samaj	.. Ganaur	3

TABLE XIV

Average Prices and wages

Year	Wages								Percentage increase or decrease over 1909 level
	Skilled			Percentage increase or decrease over 1909 level	Un-skilled				
	Rs.	As.	Ps.		Rs.	As.	Ps.		
1909	..	0	8	0	..	0	3	6	..
1912	..	0	8	0	..	0	4	0	+14
1917	..	0	13	0	+62	0	4	0	+14
1921
1922	..	1	8	0	+200	0	7	0	+100
1923
1927	..	1	4	0	+150	0	8	0	+129
1931
1932	..	1	0	0	+100	0	7	0	+100
1937	..	0	12	0	50	0	4	0	+14
1941	0	..	..	..
1943	..	1	13	0	+262	0	12	0	+243
1950-51	..	2	12	9	+450	2	8	0	+1042
1951-52	..	3	2	0	+525	2	11	0	+1129
1952-53
1953-54	..	3	3	0	+537	2	0	0	+814
1954-55	..	3	1	0	+512	2	3	0	+900
1955-56	..	4	0	0	+700	2	0	0	+814
1956-57	..	4	0	0	+700	2	0	0	+814
1957-58	..	4	0	0	+700	2	0	0	+814
1958-59	..	4	0	0	+700	2	0	0	+814
1959-60	..	5	0	0	+900	3	0	0	+1271
1960-61
1961-62
1962-63	..	Rs. 5-00	Paise		+900	Rs. 3-40			+1445
1963-64
1965	..	6-00			+1100	3-00			+1271

Rs. : Rupees
As : Annas
Ps. : Pies

TABLE XV

Achievements under Community Development Programmes

Activity		1987-88	1988-89
(i) Agriculture			
Chemical fertilizer (Tons) distributed	..	24,178	26,559
Improved seeds (Quintals) distributed	..	7,717	7,041
Area brought (Hectares) under cultivation	..	1,88,564	1,80,298
No. of key village Centres started	..	Nil	Nil
No. of pedigree animals supplied	..	2,00,960	2,63,538
Reclamation of (Hectares) land	..	781.6	485.2 (in Sonapat Sub-Division) only
(ii) Health and Sanitation			
No. of Primary Health Centres started	..	Nil	3
No. of Maternity and Child Welfare Centres started	..	Nil	Nil
(iii) Roads			
Pucca roads (Km.) constructed	..	17.65	6.83
Kacha roads (Km.) constructed	..	94.42	106.38
(iv) Wells and Drains			
No. of wells constructed	..	Nil	Nil
No. of wells renovated	..	Nil	Nil
Drains constructed (metres)	..	Nil	Nil
(v) Education			
No. of schools started	..	13	7
No. of library centres started	..	1	Nil
No. of Adults made literate	..	812	738
(vi) People's Organisation			
No. of Community Centres started	..	N.A.	N.A.
No. of Co-operatives started	..	N.A.	N.A.
No. of Production-cum-Training Centres started	..	..	..
(vii) Sports			
No. of Panchayat Tournaments held at block level	..	4	Nil
No. of District Panchayat Tournaments held	..	1	Nil

TABLE XVI
Sources of Income of Municipalities

(I) Tax Revenue—

(a) Taxes on Income—

- (i) Profession and Trade Tax**
- (ii) Servant's tax**

(b) Taxes on Commodities and Services—

- (i) Octroi**
- (ii) Terminal Tax**
- (iii) Water tax**
- (iv) Taxes on Vehicles**
- (v) Taxes on animals (including fees for registration of dogs)**
- (vi) Tolls on vehicles and animals**
- (vii) Income from public safety and convenience (Lighting, fire etc.)**
- (viii) Water fee (Sale of water)**
- (ix) Fees for vehicles licences (including driving licences)**
- (x) Licence fees for job porters**
- (xi) Dangerous and offensive trade licence fees**
- (xii) Fees for letting of fire works**
- (xiii) Local Rate**

(c) Taxes on properties and Capital transactions—

- (i) Taxes on buildings and lands**
- (ii) Rents of lands and buildings**
- (iii) Dak Bungalows and Sarais**
- (iv) Gardens and roadside trees**
- (v) Teh bazari fees (including fees for occupation of portions of streets)**
- (vi) Sale of Land Property**

(II) Administrative Receipts—

- (i) Education**
- (ii) Medical**
- (iii) Public Health**

(III) Other Receipts

- (i) Interest receipts**
- (ii) Income on Investment**
- (iii) Other general taxes (copying fee etc.)**

- (iv) Miscellaneous unclassified receipts
- (v) Miscellaneous—
 - (a) Municipal Work
 - (b) Veterinary Department
 - (c) Water Supply
 - (d) Others
- (IV) Revenue grants and Contributions
 - (i) Grants for famine relief
 - (ii) Grants-in-aid for cattle pounds
 - (iii) Grants-in-aid for ferries
 - (iv) Contributions for Veterinary Department
 - (v) Other grants or contribution
- (V) Capital transfers
 - (i) Grants for Capital expenditure on water supply
 - (ii) Recoveries for water supply works
 - (iii) Contributions for Government for Drainage Works
 - (iv) Contributions for Municipal Works
- (v) Suspense Accounts, Stationery, printing, stocks, stores, advances, deposits, cattle pounds, ferries
- (VI) Loans
 - (i) Loans for water supply works
 - (ii) Loans for drainage works
 - (iii) Loans for general purposes
 - (iv) Other Loans

Items of Expenditure of Municipalities**I. GENERAL DEPARTMENTS**

(A) General

(B) Tax and Licencing Department—

- (i) Octroi
- (ii) Terminal Tax
- (iii) Taxes and Licencing fees for vehicles
- (iv) Other taxes and fees

(C) Municipal Properties—

- (i) Rented lands and buildings
- (ii) Dak Bungalows and Sarais
- (iii) Gardens and roadside trees
- (iv) Tehbazari fees

(D) Public safety and convenience (including consumption expenditure, capital outlay, contributions etc.—)

- (i) Police
- (ii) Lighting
- (iii) Fire
- (iv) Ponds
- (v) Miscellaneous

II EDUCATION

- (i) Direction
- (ii) Colleges
- (iii) High Schools
- (iv) Middle Schools
- (v) Primary Schools
- (vi) Public Libraries, museums, etc.

III MEDICAL

- (i) Administration
- (ii) Hospitals and dispensaries
- (iii) Charges for lunatics, lepers and anti-rabic treatment of paupers

(IV) PUBLIC HEALTH

- (i) Administration
- (ii) Vital statistics and Infant welfare
- (iii) Vaccination

(iv) Plague and other epidemic disease

(v) Conservancy

(vi) Drainage

(vii) Control of food Supplies (Markets, slaughter houses, etc.)

(V) WATER SUPPLY

(i) Administration

(ii) Collection of revenue from water

(iii) Cost of Canal water

(iv) Maintenance (including work stores)

(v) Water analysis

(vi) Capital expenditure

(vii) Loans (a) Interest

(b) Repayment

(VI) VETERINARY DEPARTMENT

(i) Veterinary Hospitals

(ii) Grant to society for prevention of cruelty to animals

(iii) Horse and cattle fairs

(VII) MUNICIPAL WORKS

(i) Administration

(ii) Streets (Maintenance, watering, loans, etc.

(iii) Execution

(VIII) SUSPENSE ACCOUNTS

(IX) Reserve for unforeseen charges

TABLE XVII

Details of Income and Expenditure of Panchayats

Year		Income	Expenditure
		Rs.	Rs.
1973-74	..	24,76,273	20,77,910
1974-75	..	30,25,428	20,79,165
1975-76	..	29,74,474	26,08,907
1976-77	..	34,82,814	29,93,880
1977-78	..	33,20,121	31,23,601
1978-79	..	42,28,664	32,54,250
1979-80	..	63,61,083	54,98,202
1980-81	..	58,53,979	50,53,525
1981-82	..	61,81,813	34,69,417
1982-83	..	82,75,278	67,58,071
1983-84	..	72,37,070	60,10,490
1984-85	..	85,26,114	61,04,564
1985-86	..	1,14,22,473	70,00,662
1986-87	..	90,63,865	75,24,582
1987-88	..	1,07,46,054	83,10,976
1988-89	..	1,22,63,234	85,74,381

TABLE XVIII

Details of Income and Expenditure of Panchayat Samitis

Year		Income	Expenditure
		Rs.	Rs.
1973-74	..	18,23,191	15,76,645
1974-75	..	14,14,345	17,59,384
1975-76	..	13,26,779	12,44,852
1976-77	..	15,78,168	16,23,510
1977-78	..	20,22,273	16,46,286
1978-79	..	17,57,478	18,85,599
1979-80	..	21,13,974	19,04,193
1980-81	..	20,07,065	16,45,684
1981-82	..	25,19,295	14,16,684
1982-83	..	19,05,986	19,04,698
1983-84	..	24,73,499	24,97,041
1984-85	..	24,01,294	27,60,012
1985-86	..	40,47,254	37,12,020
1986-87	..	27,60,441	28,44,720
1987-88	..	26,50,018	27,85,830
1988-89	..	41,20,695	31,70,045

TABLE XIX

Positions of merit-list of Hindu College, Sonipat from 1980-to 1989

Year	Classes	Position of Merit List
I	II	III
1980	.. Pre-University Arts	4, 8, 14
	Pre-University Com.	5th, 13th
	Pre-University Science	8th, 9th, 11th, 14th
	Pre-Engineering	2nd, 3rd, 4th, 6th, 8th, 8th, 9th
	Pre-Medical	1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 9th, 10th
	B.A. IInd year	1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 8th 12th, 14th
	B.A. IIIrd year	3rd
	B.S.c. IInd year	5th, 8th
	B.S.c. IIIrd year	2nd, 3rd, 5th
	B. Com. I	7th
	B. Com. II	2nd
	B. Com. III	14th
1981	.. Pre-University Com.	4th, 12th
	Pre-University Science	1st, 4th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th 12th, 14th, 15th
	Pre-Engg.	3rd, 5th, 7th, 9th
	Pre-Medical	9th
	B.S.c. IInd year	4th, 7th, 9th, 10th
	B.S.c. IIIrd year	9th
	B. Com. 1st year	1st, 7th, 8th, 11th
	B. Com. IInd year	1st, 5th, 7th, 10th
1982	.. Pre-University Com.	2nd, 8th, 9th, 10th, 13th
	Pre-University Science	4th, 8th, 11th, 13th, 15th
	Pre-Engg.	7th, 8th
	Pre-Medical	5th
	B.A. IInd year	1st, 15th
	B.A. IIIrd year	7th, 15th
	B.S.c. IInd year	1st, 4th

I	II	III
1983	B.Sc. IIIrd year	3rd, 9th, 9th, 10th,
	B. Com. 1st year	5th, 6th, 8th, 14th, 15th
	B. Com. IIrd year	1st, 8th
	B. Com. IIIrd year	5th, 9th, 13th
	Pre-University Arts	11th
	.. Pre-University Arts	4th
	Pre-University Com.	4th, 9th
	Pre-University Science	1st, 3rd, 5th, 10th
	Pre-Engg.	3rd, 5th
	Pre-Medical	7th, 8th, 9th, 10th
	B.Sc. IIIrd year	1st, 2nd, 4th
	B. Com. IIrd year	2nd, 10th
	B. Com. IIIrd year	1st, 2nd, 8th, 9th
1984	.. Pre-University Commerce	2nd
	Pre-University Science	1st, 5th, 6th, 8th, 10th
	Pre-Engg.	1st, 2nd, 3rd, 6th, 8th, 9th, 10th
	Pre-Medical	1st, 2nd
	B.A. 1st year	4th
	B.Sc. IIrd year	8th
	B.Sc. IIIrd year	5th, 6th
	B. Com. 1st year	8th
	B. Com. IIIrd year	8th
1985	Pre-University Commerce	1st
	Pre-University Science	6th
	Pre-Medical	1st
	B.A. IIrd year	14th
	B.Sc. IIrd year	5th, 6th
	B.Sc. IIIrd year	4th
	B.Com. 1st year	3rd, 10th
	B. Com. IIrd year	2nd, 2nd, 3rd, 5th, 6th, 6th
	B. Com. IIIrd year	7th

I	II	III
1986	.. Pre-Engg.	4th, 5th, 9th
	Pre-Medical	1st, 2nd, 8th, 9th
	B. Com. 1st year	3rd, 4th
	B. Com. IIInd year	3rd, 4th, 5th, 7th, 8th
	B. Com. IIIrd year	1st, 2nd, 3rd
	B.Sc. IIInd year	9th, 9th, 9th, 10th
	B.Sc. IIIrd year	5th
1987	+2	6th, 16th, 49th, 82nd, 94th, 102nd, 111th
	B. Com. IIInd year	2nd, 3rd, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th
	B.Sc. IIIrd year	2nd, 5th, 7th, 8th, 10th
	B.Sc. IIInd year	1st
	B.Sc. IIIrd year	8th, 10th
1988	+2	6th, 38th, 45th, 52nd, 58th, 60th, 93rd, 100th, 106th, 101st, 115th, 141st, 156th, 166th, 201st
	B.Com. III	4th, 7th, 8th, 10th
	B.Sc. III	1st, 8th
	B.Com. I	IIInd, 3rd, 7th
	B.Sc. I	8th
1989	+2	37th, 47th, 52th, 53rd, 96th, 100th, 103rd, 104th, 120th, 133rd, 160th, 165th, 200th, 209th
	B.A. Ist	3rd
	B.Sc. Ist year	2nd, 4th
	B.Sc. III	6th, 7th, 9th

TABLE XX

PART A

A List of medical institutions
as on March 31, 1989]

Government Ayurvedic Dispensaries (Rural)

1. Saragthal
2. Baroda
3. Dhanana
4. Kanhi
5. Rajlu Garhi
6. Ahir Mazra
7. Bhanswal Kalan
8. Mandora
9. Shitawati
10. Bajana Kol Kalan
11. Pipli Khara
12. Keroli-Pehladpur
13. Harsana Kalan
14. Kalana
15. Mohra

Govt. Unani Dispensaries

1. Khubru]
2. Jagsi



PART B

1. P.H.C. Juan

1. Sandal Kalan
2. Barwasni
3. Dipalpur
4. Guhna
5. Sahazadpur
6. Bhatgaon
7. Kamaspur
8. Mehdipur
9. Mohana
10. Bhadana
11. Badoli
12. Jahri
13. Fazilpur
14. Raiwali
15. Raipur
16. Murthal
17. Jain Pur
18. Nandnour
19. Bhatna Zafraabad
20. Lahrara
21. Bainpur
22. Harsana Kalan
23. Jat Majra
24. Bohla
25. Pinana
26. Kariwari
27. Mahlana
28. Bagru
29. Kakroi
30. S. S. Majra



2. P.H.C. Ganaur

1. Rajpur
2. Bajanakalan
3. Pipli Khera
4. Ahulana
5. Shekhupura
6. Rajlugarhi
7. Malikpur
8. Kurar
9. Chirsmi
10. Garhi Jhanjara
11. Ghasoli
12. Kheri Gujjar
13. Aganpur
14. Nayabans
15. Kaliaana
16. Shitawati
17. Pugthala
18. Panchi Jatan
19. Gumor
20. Duheta
21. Purkhas
22. Bhagipur
23. Bali Kutabpur
24. Bega
25. Datoli
26. Moi Majri
27. Bhigan
28. Larsoli

3. P.H.C. Gohana

1. Bidhal
2. Khanpur
3. Lath
4. Kahni
5. Rabran
6. Jauli

7. Rithal
8. Anwali
9. Rukhi
10. Moi Hooda
11. Mahra
12. Gamri
13. Kasaudi
14. Nayat
15. S.N. Garhi
16. Bainswal
17. Jastrana
18. Gumana
19. Katwal
20. Kheri Damkan

4. P.H.C, Kharkhoda

1. Thana Kalan
2. Khanda
3. Sisana
4. Silana
5. Gorar
6. Pipli
7. Rohat
8. Jataula
9. Turkpur
10. Schri
11. Anandpur
12. Kawali
13. Gopalpur
14. Matindo
15. Rampur
16. Farmana
17. Redhavo
18. Bidlan
19. Nakloi



5. P.H.C, Halalpur

1. Manoli
2. Nangal Kalan
3. Khatkar
4. Kindhroli
5. Kundli
6. Rai
7. Rathdhana
8. Khawara
9. Barota
10. Nahri
11. Janti Kalan
12. Bad Khalsa
13. Jatheri
14. Nahra
15. Chhettra
16. Kheri Manajat
17. Jakhali
18. Nathu pur
19. Palri Krd
20. Aurangabad
21. Jhundpur
22. Palsara
23. Bhalgarh
24. Sewli

6 P.H.C, Mundalana

1. Baroda Mor
3. Mehmoodpur
3. Jawara
4. Kohla
5. Sharni
6. Pichrperi
7. Gangana
8. Busana
9. Sarsad

10. Chirana
 11. Butana
 12. Butana Kundo
 13. Khanpur Krd
 14. Issapur Kheri
 15. Khandrai
 16. Sawana Mal
 17. Jagsi
 18. Chhetra
 19. Ahmadpur Majra
7. P.H.C, Kathura (PHC Chiri Block Kathura)
1. Chhichhrana
 2. Ghilor
 3. Ahulana
 4. Bhawar
 5. Garhwal
 6. Dhanana
 7. Rindhana
 8. Banwasa
 9. Kathura
 10. Bhainswan
 11. Madina
 12. Nizampur
 13. Bhandari



Table XXI

Important Labour Laws

Subject matter	Name of the Act	Whether Central or State Act	Main provisions
1	2	3	4
Working conditions, industrial safety, hygiene and welfare inside the place of work	(1) The Factories Act, 1948	Central Act	Elaborate provisions have been made in the Act regarding the conditions of work inside factories including hours of work, employment of young persons, leave with wages, occupational diseased safeguard for health, promotion of safety and welfare of workers and special provision for young persons and women. Welfare measures like first-aid appliances, canteens, creches, cool drinking water, etc., near the places of work have also been provided under the Act.
	2. The Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986.	Central Act	The Act prohibits employment of children in certain employments and regulates the conditions of work of children in certain other employments as shown in part-A and B of the schedule attached to the Act: Provided that nothing in this section shall apply to any workshop wherein any process is carried on by the occupier with the aid of his family or to any school established by, or receiving assistance or recognition from, Government.
	(3) The Punjab Shops and Commercial Establishments Act, 1958	State Act	The Act regulates conditions of work and term of employment of workers engaged in shops and commercial establishments and in those industrial establishments which are not covered under the Factories Act, 1948. It covers hours of work, holidays, leave, wages, employment of children and their working hours, closing and opening hours, health, safety, maternity benefits and welfare.
Wages	(1) The Payment of Wages Act, 1936	Central Act	The Act regulates timely payment of wages without any unauthorised deductions. As a result of an amendment in 1975, the coverage of the Act has been extended to persons getting wages upto Rs. 1,600 per mensem.

1	2	3	4
	(2) The Minimum Wages Act, 1948	Central Act	The Act provides for fixation of minimum wages, working hours, weekly rest, etc.
	(3) The Equal Remuneration Act, 1976	Central Act	The Act provides for the payment of equal remuneration to men and women workers and for the prevention of discrimination on the ground of sex against women.
Industrial relations	(1) The Industrial Disputes Act, 1947	Central Act	The Act provides for settlement of industrial disputes, lay off payments and payments at the time of retrenchment. As a result of an amendment (in 1965) in Section 2-A of the Act, any individual can raise a dispute relating to his dismissal. By another amendment in 1976, the industrial establishments employing 100 or more workers are required to obtain prior permission of the government in matters of lay off and retrenchment of workers and closure of their unit(s).
	(2) The Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946	Central Act	The Act requires employers employing 50 or more workers to make standing orders defining terms of employment of workers on specified matters and to get them certified by the certifying officer.
Trade Unions	The Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926	Central Act	The Act makes provision for the registration of trade unions and describes the rights, privileges, obligation and liabilities of registered trade unions.
Social Security	(1) The Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923	Central Act	The Act provides for payment of compensation to workmen in the case of injury caused by an accident arising out of and in the course of employment. It also provides for payment of compensation for certain occupational diseases. As a result of an amendment in 1976, the coverage of the Act has been extended with retrospective effect to workers getting wages not exceeding Rs. 1,000 per mensem.
	(2) The Employees State Insurance Act, 1948	Central Act	The Act provides for five types of benefits to the employees, viz. sickness benefits, maternity benefit, a dependents benefit, disablement benefit and medical benefit.

1	2	3	4
	(3) The Employees' Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952	Central Act	The Act seeks to make provisions for the future of industrial worker after he retires or is retrenched or for his dependents in case of his early death.
	(4) The Maternity Benefit Act, 1961	Central Act	The Act provides for payment of cash benefit to women workers for specified periods before and after child birth and for other incidental matters.
	(5) The Punjab Labour Welfare Fund Act, 1965	State Act	All unpaid accumulations of workers lying undisturbed for a period of 3 years or more have to be paid to the Labour Welfare Board constituted for the purpose by the State Government, which shall keep a separate account to be utilised by it for defraying the cost of carrying out measures for promoting the welfare of labour and their dependents.
	(6) The Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972	Central Act	To provide for a scheme for the payment of gratuity for employees engaged in factories, mines, oilfields, plantation, ports, railway, companies, shops or other establishments and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. Gratuity shall be payable to an employee on the termination of his employment after he has rendered continuous service for not less than 5 years. Gratuity payable under this Act, shall not be liable to attachment in execution of any decree or order of any civil, revenue or criminal court.
Housing	The Punjab Industrial Housing Act, 1956	State Act	The Act provides for the administration, allotment, realisation of rent, etc., in connection with quarters constructed under the subsidised industrial housing scheme.
Bonus	The Payment of Bonus Act, 1965	Central Act	Every establishment whether running in a profit or loss is required to pay bonus at the rate of 8.33 per cent or Rs. 100 whichever is more.
Leave	The Punjab Industrial Establishments (National and Festival Holidays and Casual and Sick Leave) Act, 1965	State Act	Every establishment has to allow to its employees, the following : National Holidays 3 (i.e. 26th January, 15th August and 2nd October)

1	2	3	4
			Festival Holidays 5
			Casual Leave 7
			Sick Leave 14
Welfare of transport workers	The Motor Transport Workers Act, 1961	Central Act	The Act provides for the welfare of motor transport workers and regulates the conditions of their work. It applies to every motor transport undertaking employing five or more workers.
Welfare of contract workers	The Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970	Central Act	The Act regulates the employment of contract labour in certain establishments and provides for its abolition in certain circumstances and for matters connected therewith
	The Bonded Labour (Abolition) Act, 1976	Central Act	Prevention of forced labour.

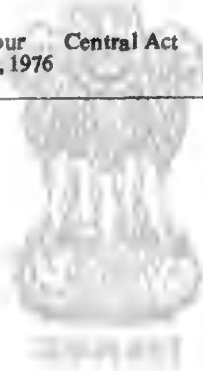


Table XXII

Labour Unions upto March 31, 1989

1. Label Workers Union, Sonipat.
2. Haryana Breweries Workers Union
3. Sonipat Central Co-operative Bank Employees Union, Sonipat
4. Co-operative Department Salesman Union, Sonipat
5. Nagar Palika Karamchari Sangh, Sonipat
6. Nagar Palika Karamchari Union, Sonipat
7. Essax Poultry Farm Workers Union, Sonipat
8. Sonipat Safai Karamchari Mill Workers Union, Sonipat
9. Indo-Malt Employees Union, Sonipat
10. Textile Mazdoor Sangh, Sonipat
11. Tripati Woollen Mill Employees Union, Sonipat
12. Leather Workers Union, Sonipat
13. Janta Organo Chemical Workers Union, Sonipat
14. Haryana Sheet Glass Workers Union, Sonipat
15. H.S.A. Mazdoor Union, Murthal, Sonipat
16. Rolling Mill Mazdoor Union, Sonipat
17. Bhartat Steel Tubes Workers Azad Union, Ganaur
18. The B.K Iron & Steel Workers Union, Sonipat
19. B.S.T. Mazdoor Sangh, Ganaur
20. B.S.T. Karamchari Union, Ganaur
21. Suraj Steel Employment Union, Sonipat
22. Hindustan Devi District Workers Union, Jatheri
23. Engineering Mazdoor Union, Sonipat
24. Beas Mazdoor Union, Sonipat
25. Hindustan Everest Kamgar Congress New Hindustan Tool Factory, Jatheri
26. Engineering Workers Union, Murthal
27. Asco Mazdoor Union, Sonipat
28. E.C.E. Workers Lamp Division Kamgar Union, Sonipat
29. E.C.E. Workers Union, Sonipat
30. Atlas Mazdoor Union, Sonipat
31. Atlas Mazdoor Sangh, Sonipat
32. Atlas Janta Workers Union, Sonipat
33. Milton Cycle Karamchari Union, Sonipat

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34. Chabra Khomch Rehri Union, Sonipat
 35. Halwai Karamchari Sanghtan, Rohtak Road, Sonipat
 36. Haryana Barber Shop Keepers Association, Sonipat
 37. Punjab National Bank Workers Organisation, Sonipat,
 38. The Vanaspati & Food Workers Union, Kundli
 39. Spinning Mill Workers Union, Gohana
 40. Niwar Factory Workers Union, Gohana
 41. Rubber Workers Union, Sonipat
 42. Chemical Workers Union, Kath Mandi, Sonipat
 43. Glass Workers Union, Sonipat
 44. Gedore Tools Workers Union, Sonipat
 45. General Engineering Workers Union, Sonipat
 46. Milton Cycle Mazdoor Sangarsh Samittee, Sonipa
 47. Atlas Karamchari Union, Sonipat
 48. Halwai Hotel Workers Union, Sonipat
 49. Textile Workers Union, Kathmandi, Sonipat
 50. Haryana Steel Glass Mazdoor Sangthan, Vill. Savel Sonipat.
 51. Vegetables Salesman Union, Ganaur
 52. Mini-Bank Mazdoor Union, Central Co-operative Bank, Gohana
 53. Auto-Rickshaw Chalak Union, Sonipat
 54. MACO Lock Mazdoor Sangh (Lok Dal), Sonipat
 55. Rickshaw Pullers Union, Sonipat
 56. Dargi-Workers Union, Sonipat

Table of XXIII

Strikes/lockouts during 1985 to 1989

Sr. No.	Name of the Estts.	Began	Ended	No. of workers involved	Man Days involved
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	M/s Goel Spinning & Weaving Mills, Rasoi ..	29-11-85	17-1-86	167	7,181
2	(i) Popular Rubber Mills, Rasoi ..	13-12-85	19-12-85	29	203
	(ii) Mercury Rubber Mills, Rasoi ..	Do	Do	106	742
3	(i) Popular Rubber Mills, Rasoi ..	16-1-86	24-2-86	48	1,435
	(ii) Mercury Rubber Mills, Rasoi ..	Do	Do	153	5,355
4	Sardar Solvent Inds., Kundli ..	4-2-86	15-4-86	32	1,952
5	Avon Scales Co., Sonapat ..	21-2-86	23-9-86	56	10,248
6	(i) Organo Rubber (P) Ltd., Sonapat ..	10-7-86	25-7-86	60	840
	(ii) Organo Chemical (P) Ltd., Sonapat ..	Do	Do	16	224
7	B.S.T. Ganaur ..	17-11-86	29-11-86	775	9,300
8	Hilton Rubber Ltd., Rai, Sonapat ..	11-12-86	30-1-87	350	14,063
9	E.C.E. (Lamp Division), Sonapat ..	29-1-87	5-2-87	352	10,208
10	Jhalani Tools (P) Ltd., Kundli ..	11-6-87	10-6-87	881	14,977
11	Haryana Conductors Ltd., Kundli ..	4-9-87	10-9-87	14	70
12	Sardar Solvent Ind., Sonapat ..	4-9-87	17-11-87 (Prohibited)	32	1,120
13	B.S.T. Ltd., Ganaur ..	20-9-87	10-11-87	762	13,716
14	(i) Konodia Hosiery Mills, Jatheri ..	27-10-87	6-12-87	23	805
	(ii) Shanti Paper Mills, Jatheri ..	Do	Do	61	1,525
15	Milton Cycle Inds. Ltd., Sonapat ..	1-2-87	16-5-88	600	44,972
16	Haryana Vanaspati & General Mills, Kundli ..	17-2-88	4-5-88	31	2,015
17	Haryana Conductors (P) Ltd., Kundli ..	12-1-88	30-4-88	16	1,072
18	(i) M/s Sunder Singh & Co. Rai, Sonapat ..	31-5-88	16-6-88	60	900
	(ii) Guru Nanak Engg. and Foundry Works, Rai ..	Do	Do	Do	Do

1	2	3	4	5	6
19	Toyo Springs (P) Ltd., Rai, (Sonepat)	30-5-88	13-6-88	63	819
20	Corals Chemicals Ltd., Sonepat ..	13-6-88	12-7-88	35	910
21	Toyo Springs (P) Ltd., Rai ..	29-6-88	6-8-88	63	2,890
22	B.S.T., Ganaur ..	29-8-88 (Lock out	contd. 11-11-88)	850	99,450
23	Plastic Kot (Sundersons), Jatheri (Sonepat) ..	12-12-88	12-1-89	42	1,218
24	Merry Gold Canes Ltd., Kundli ..	30-1-89	Contd.	14	1,850
25	Eastern Gas Appliances, Kundli ..	3-1-89	Contd.	14	1,944
26	(i) Shanti Paper Mills ..	3-1-89	10-3-89	40	1,600
	(ii) Konodia Hosiery, Jatheri ..	3-1-89	10-3-89	21	835

*The lockout was prohibited by the Government on 30th December, 1988 but the management obtained stay orders against the orders of Government from Punjab and Haryana High Court. Thus the lockout is still continuing.

TABLE XXIV

Constituencies and the number of votes polled for election to Lok Sabha in Rohtak district during the First General Elections, 1952

Name of constituency	Extent of constituency	No. of Seats	No. of electors	Total number of electors who voted	Percentage of col. 5 to col. 4
1	2	3	4	5	6
Rohtak	Gohana tahsil and Rohtak tahsil (excluding Sampla thana) and Ganaur thana, Sonipat City and Sonipat Sadar thanas (excluding Rohat part zail) and Kheora part zail of Rai thana of the then Sonipat tahsil of Rohtak district and Narnaund thana and parts of Sorkhi, Kapru and Sisai zails of Hansi thana of the then Hansi tahsil of Hisar district	1	3,63,546	2,53,188	69.64
Jhajjar-Rewari	Jhajjar tahsil, Sampla thana, Rai thana (excluding Kheota part zail) and Rohat part zail of Sonipat Sadar thana of Sonipat tahsil of the then Rohtak district ; Rohtak district ; and Rewari tahsil (excluding Pataudi part-thana and Mirpur part zail of Jatusana thana) of the then Gurgaon district	1	3,82,413	2,46,224	64.36

TABLE XXV

Constituencies and the number of valid votes polled for election to Lok Sabha in Rohtak district during the Second General Elections, 1957

Name of constituency	Extent of Constituency	Total number of seats	Seats reserved for Scheduled Castes	Total number of electors	Total number of valid votes polled	Percentage of col. 6 to col. 5
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Rohtak	Rohtak district (excluding Jhajjar tahsil, Rai thana in Sonapat tahsil and Sampla part thana in Rohtak tahsil and Safidon and Julana Kanungo circles in Jind tahsil of the then Sangrur district)	1	..	3,94,077	2,73,698	69.4
Jhajjar	Jhajjar tahsil, Rai thana in Sonapat tahsil, and Sampla part thana in Rohtak tahsil, of Rohtak district : and Rewari tahsil (excluding Pataudi part-thana) of the then Gurgaon district	1	..	4,22,351	2,70,637	64.0

TABLE XXVI

Constituencies with their extents, during First General Elections, 1952 (Vidhan Sabha),
1952

Name of constituency	Extent of constituency
1	2
Rai	.. Rohat part zail of Sonipat Sadar thana and Rai thana (excluding Kheora part zail) and Rohna zail of Sampl thana.
Sonipat	.. Kheora part zail of Rai thana and Sonipat City and Sonipat Sadar (excluding Rohat part zail; thana of Sonipat tahsil)
Ganaur	.. Ganaur thana of the then Sonipat tahsil and Khanpur Kalan zail of Gohana thana of Gohana tahsil
Gohana	.. Gohana tahsil excluding Khanpur Kalan zail of Gohana thana.



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Glossary

<i>Ala Malikiyat</i>	..	Superior ownership in case of land in which proprietary rights are divided.
<i>Amavas</i>	..	Dark night
<i>Anand Karaj</i>	..	Marriage according to Sikh rites
<i>Balwadi</i>	..	A Community Centre
<i>Ban</i>	..	Thick rope of <i>munj</i>
<i>Banjar</i>	..	The old high bank of Yamuna
<i>Barat</i>	..	A marriage party
<i>Barani</i>	..	Dependent on rain
<i>Bazar</i>	..	Shopping Centre
<i>Begar</i>	..	Forced labour
<i>Bhanja</i>	..	Sister, s son
<i>Biradari</i>	..	Brotherhood
<i>Burka</i>	..	A veil used by muslim women
<i>Chhaj</i>	..	A winnowing basket
<i>Chapati</i>	..	<i>Roti</i>
<i>Chappal</i>	..	A kind of footwear
<i>Charpoy</i>	..	The Common bedstead
<i>Chowkidar</i>	..	Watchman
<i>Dal</i>	..	Pulses
<i>Dhaba</i>	..	Eating house
<i>Dhaincha</i>	..	A kind of green manuring
<i>Durrie</i>	..	A carpet
<i>Fakir</i>	..	Religious person in search of God
<i>Gaushala</i>	..	Cow pen run on charitable basis
<i>Ghagri or Ghagra</i>	..	A dress worn by rural women
<i>Ghani</i>	..	Oil Crusher
<i>Ghurchari</i>	..	Mare-riding at the marriage ceremony by the bridegroom

<i>Iranth Sahib</i>	..	The religious book of the Sikhs
<i>Gur</i>	..	A lump of unrefined sugar
<i>Gurdwara</i>	..	A place for worship of Sikhs
<i>Gwara</i>	..	A pulse
<i>Holi</i>	..	A person ploughing the field
<i>Hundi</i>	..	Bill of exchange for money
<i>Jagirdar</i>	..	A <i>Jagir</i> -holder
<i>Jalebi</i>	..	Sweetment
<i>Jheel</i>	..	A lake
<i>Jute</i>	..	A kind of footwea.
<i>Kanal</i>	..	A measure of land
<i>Khadar</i>	..	Land bordering a large river
<i>Kharif</i>	..	Autumn harvest
<i>Khes</i>	..	A thick cotton sheet used as wrap
<i>Kirtan</i>	..	Recitation accompanied by music
<i>Kunba</i>	..	Family
<i>Lambardar</i>	..	A functionary for land collection
<i>Lathi</i>	..	A stick
<i>Moorha</i>	..	A read stool
<i>Muafi</i>	..	The land exempted from rent
<i>Mundan</i>	..	The first hair-shaving of a child
<i>Nata</i>	..	Relationship
<i>Navaratra</i>	..	The first nine days of <i>Chaitra</i>
<i>Niwar</i>	..	Cotton-tape
<i>Palang</i>	..	Bedstead
<i>Pana-Patti</i>	..	Section of a village
<i>Panch</i>	..	Panchayat member
<i>Pargana</i>	..	Group of villages
<i>Pir</i>	..	A Muslim saint
<i>Punar Vivah</i>	..	Remarriage
<i>Purdah</i>	..	A veil on the face of women
<i>Purohit</i>	..	A family priest
<i>Quazi</i>	..	A Mohammedan Judge
<i>Rabi</i>	..	Spring Harvest

<i>Ragi</i>	..	Village Singes
<i>Ragni</i>	..	Village Folk Song
<i>Rath</i>	..	A chariot
<i>Rishi</i>	..	Hermit
<i>Rokna</i>	..	A ceremony before marriage among Hindus
<i>Sadhu</i>	..	Ascetic
<i>Sagai</i>	..	Engagement
<i>Salwar</i>	..	A woman-dress
<i>Sanyast</i>	..	A person who has renounced the wordly attached
<i>Sardar</i>	..	Leader
<i>Sarson</i>	..	An oil seed
<i>Satsang</i>	..	Assembly for a religious purpose
<i>Sehra</i>	..	Bridal Chaplet
<i>Shyadha</i>	..	Ceremony of propitiating the dead
<i>Shamiana</i>	..	Tent
<i>Shamlat</i>	..	Common land
<i>Shtsam</i>	..	An Indian tree
<i>Shivala</i>	..	Shiva temple
<i>Strkl</i>	..	A reed hut
<i>Sufedposh</i>	..	Former village official
<i>Sufi</i>	..	Mohammedan mendicant
<i>Surahl</i>	..	A earthen flosk
<i>Tapa</i>	..	Group of villages
<i>Tirth</i>	..	A place of pilgrimage
<i>Wazir</i>	..	A minister
<i>Zail</i>	..	Sub-division of a tahsil
<i>Zamindar</i>	..	A land holder



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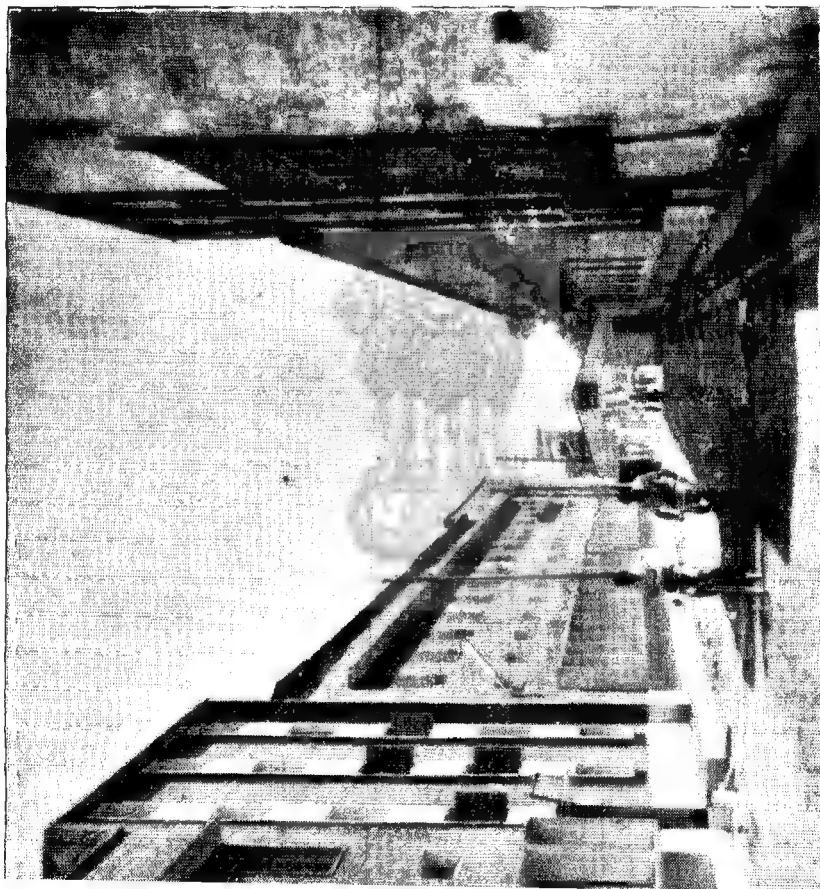
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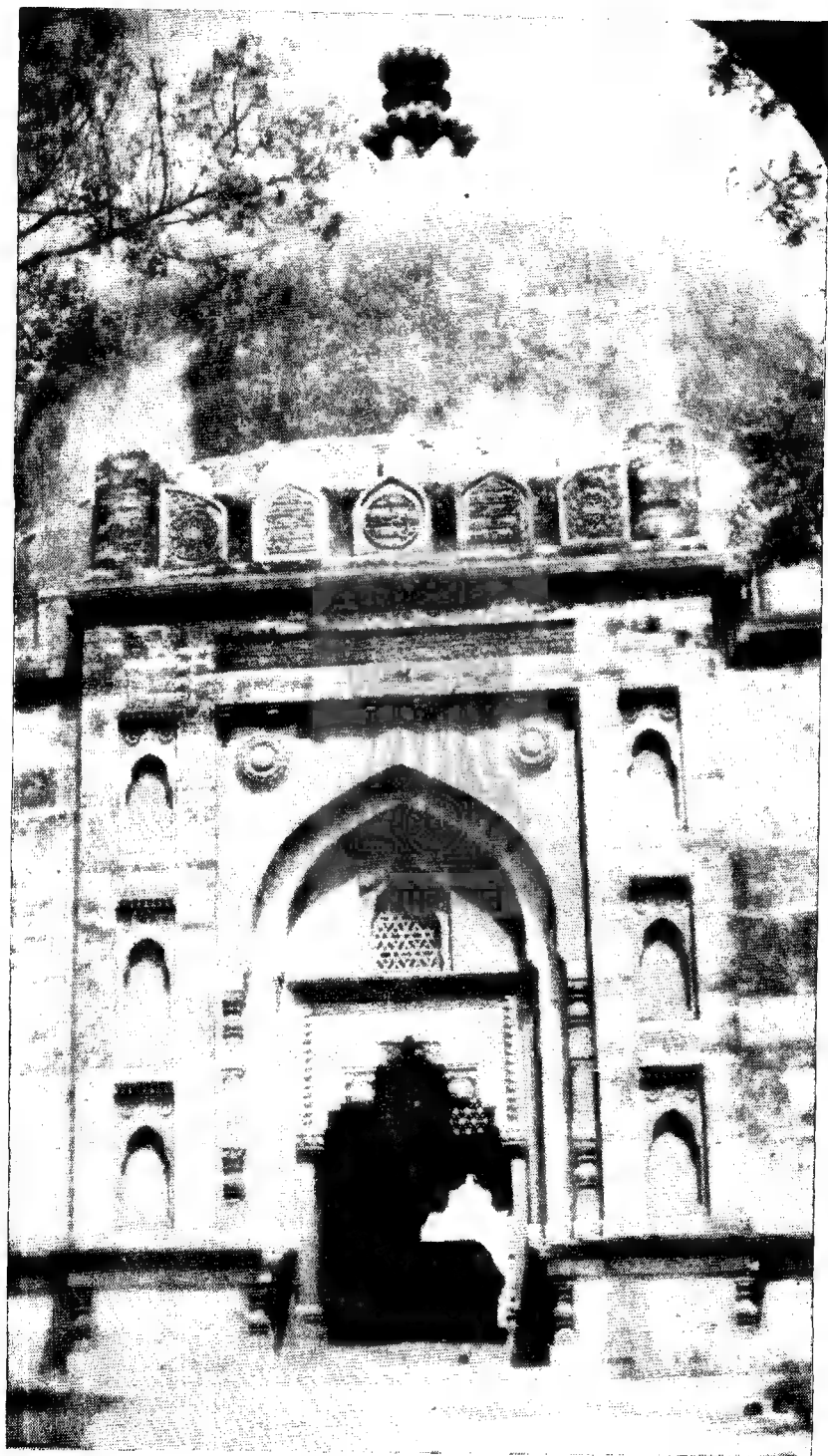
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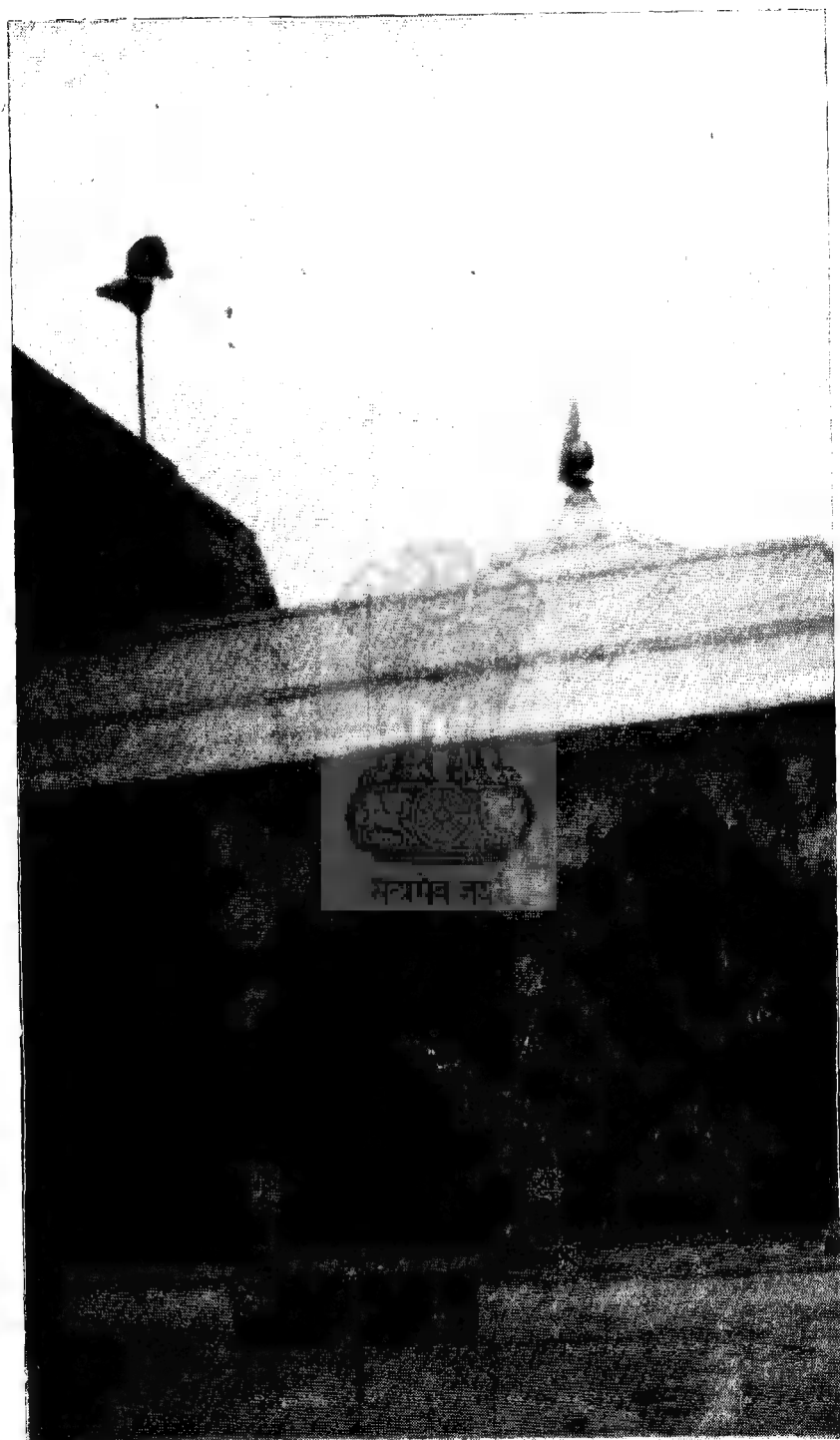
Wedding scene of rural area



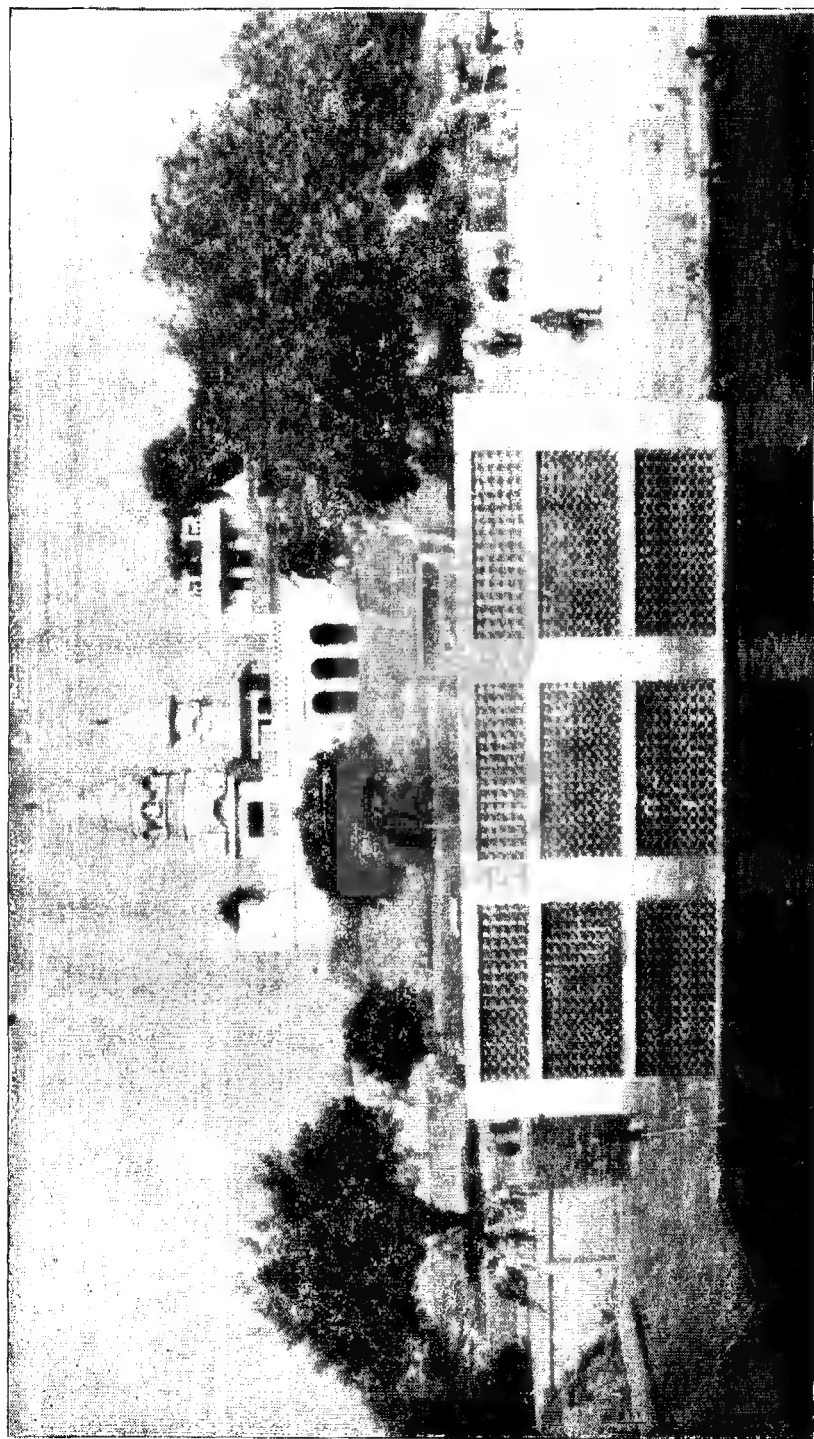
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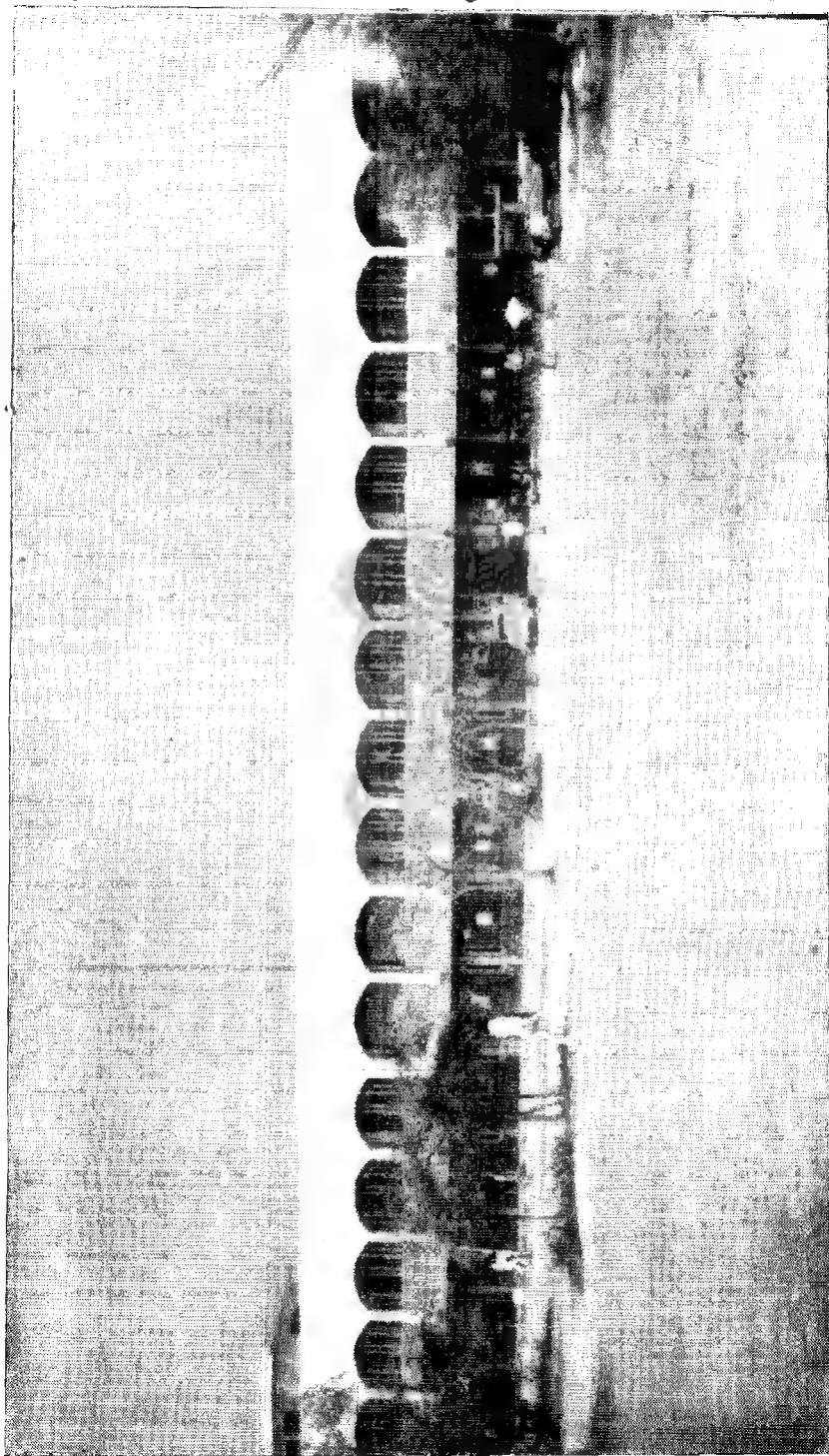
Tomb of Khawaza Khizr, Sonipat



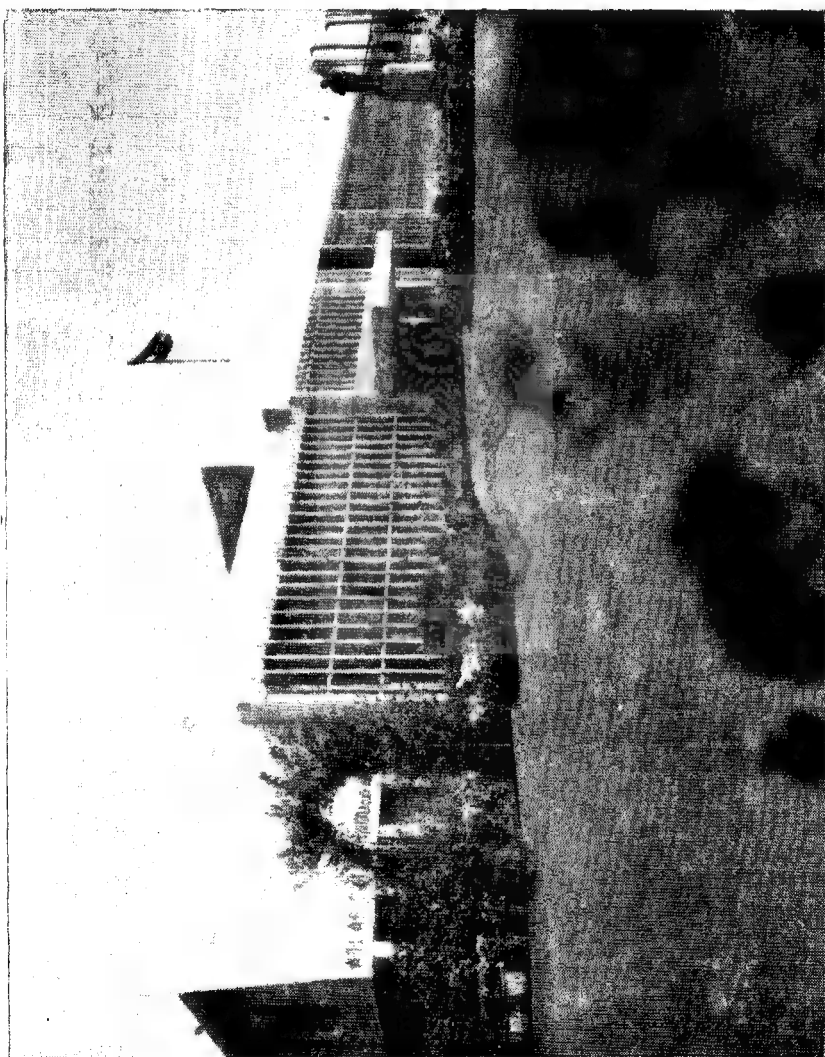
Dargah of Mamu Bhanja, Sonipat



Sat Kumbh Tank, Gujjar Kheri



Mini Secretariat, Sonipat.



Atlas Cycle Industry, Sonipat.



Front Gate of Kanya Gurukul, Khanpur Kalan



Old town of Soripat on a mound.



Yamuna River Front.



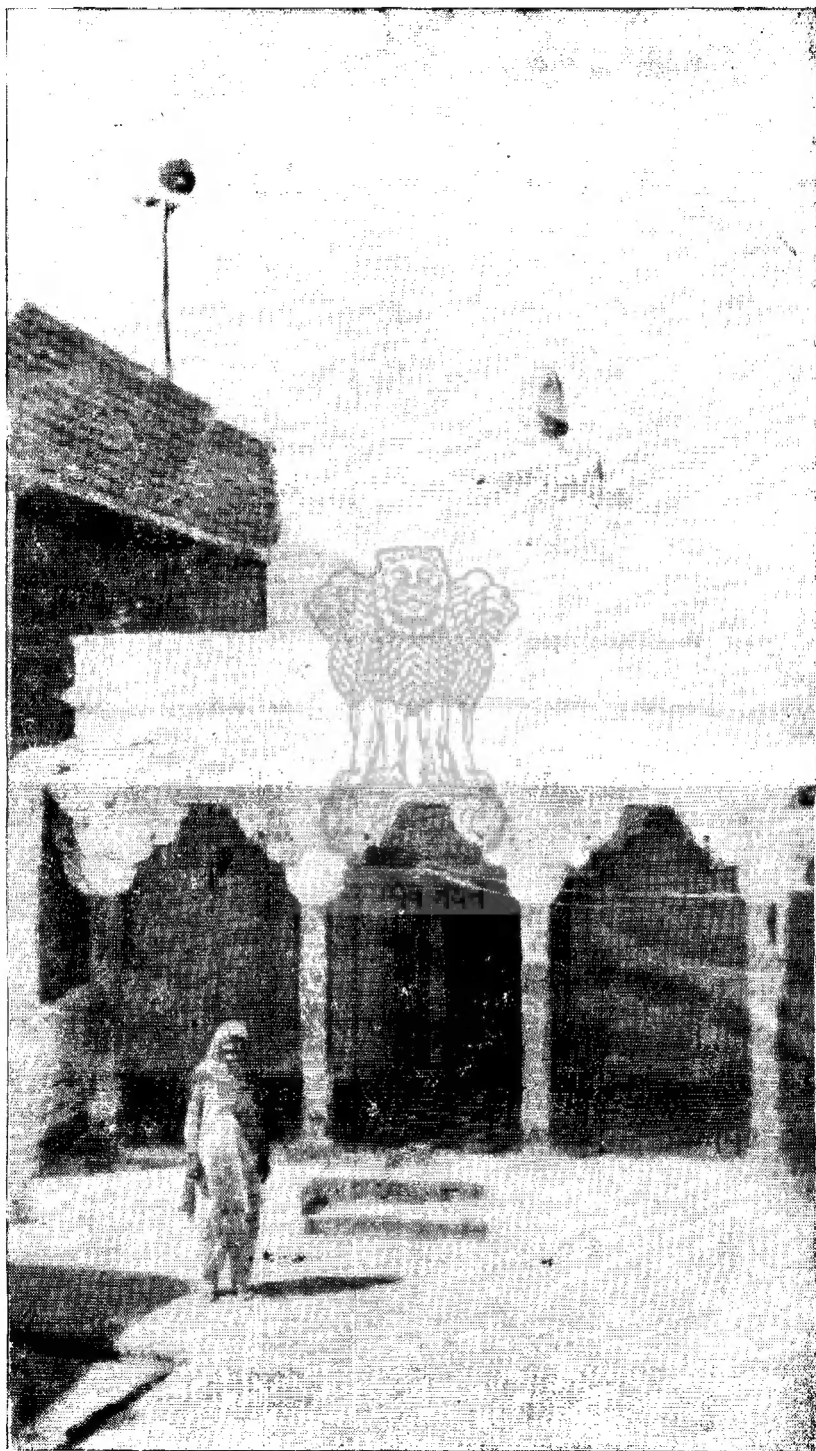
Rural people busy in gossips around Hookah.



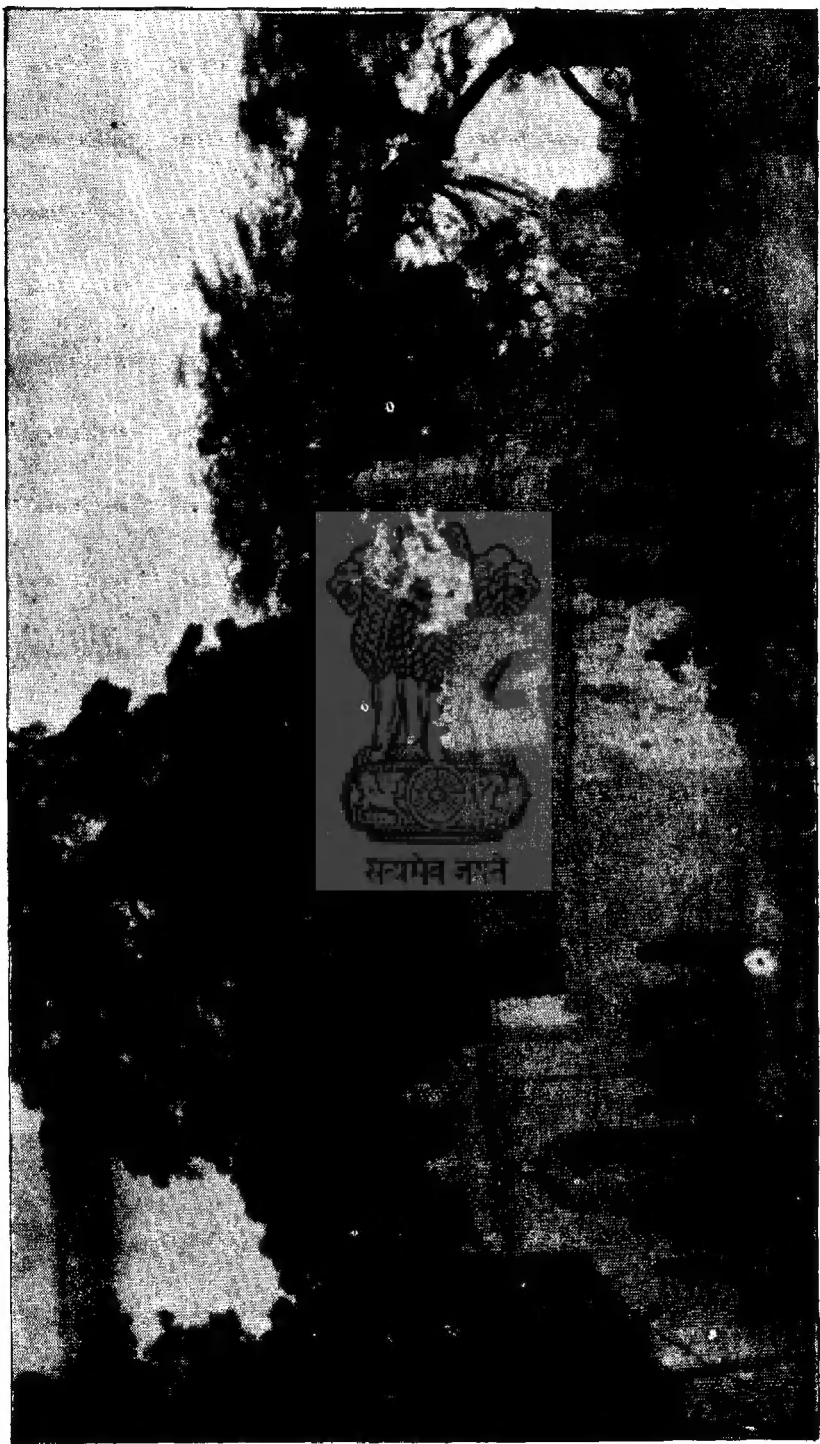
Mosque of Abdullah Nasir-ud-din, Sonipat



Rural people busy in gossips around Hookah.



Mosque of Abdullah Nasir-ud-din, Sonipat



Shrine of Shah Zia-ud-din, Gohana